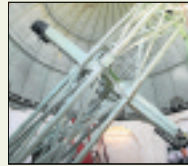


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Call to slash parking fees in the town

Parking charges may be slashed in Walsall town centre car parks to draw in more shoppers in new advice to transport chiefs.

Transport chiefs are being advised to cut the cost of a four-hour stay in Walsall's council-controlled car parks by £1 to £2.80. Concerns were raised that drivers were being priced out of town or just using free spaces at supermarkets. It currently costs £3.80 to park for four hours – but £1.40 for two hours. A working group was set up by the council.

It looked at parking issues and recommends cheaper longer stay parking to the decision-making cabinet.

Councillor Dennis Anson, a member of the group, said: "It is something we are looking at for a trial period. Hopefully it would encourage more people into the town. Something needs to be done as we have got to fill up the spaces. We want to keep people in the town."

Parking problems led to fears for a town centre where about 80 shops and businesses are vacant.

The council, trying to encourage more into car parks, asked bosses of the new Tesco in St Paul's Street to put a two-hour limit on spaces after drivers flocked to park there. The limit is three hours.

Since parking meters and new charges on 19 streets in the town centre, drivers flocked to find free spaces.

Drivers are charged 20p for 10 minutes. A 600-name petition was launched by businesses and shoppers against fees, claiming some traders are hundreds of pounds out of pocket.

At the Crown Wharf Shopping Centre, home to H&M and TK Maxx, bosses scrapped the first free hour of parking, after long queues. New electronic signs in the town centre will direct drivers to free spaces. Walsall Council was unavailable for comment.

Group's £1.8m turnaround

Bosses at Walsall foundry group Chamberlin have shown a £1.8 million turnaround as it returned to full-year profit.

The success at the group has seen it hiring back workers who lost their jobs in the recession, while sales figures in the last year have risen 40 per cent to £39.8m.

Chairman Tom Brown said it "marked a turning point". Last year Chamberlain made a £1m loss but on Tuesday unveiled full-year profits of £895,000. Mr Brown, having seen the company through the recession and into recovery, also announced he will be stepping down.

Workloads at Chamberlin's foundries have returned to pre-recession levels or are on their way back. At the Chuckery Road site, in Walsall, work is under way on a new turbo-charger contract that will be worth around £5m a year once full-scale production starts.

During the depths of the recession the company's Walsall foundry was reduced to a three-day week to try to cut back on redundancies.

Despite this, from a peak of 484, the Chamberlin workforce shrank to 369, but it started recruiting again in mid-2010 and workforce numbers have increased past the 400 mark. The recovery at Chamberlin has also seen it buy up the assets of collapsed Darlaston engineering group Jebroon, and hire 20 of the firm's staff who had lost their jobs when it went into administration. The business has become part of Chamberlin's Exidor operation in Cannock.

Cancer sufferer given treatment to help her relax

GRAN DIED FOLLOWING DRUG DOSE

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A cancer sufferer from Walsall died hours after being given a drug to help her relax, an inquest heard.

Grandmother Wendy Gunter died at her home in Holden Crescent on March 8, 2009 – a day after being visited by a doctor who prescribed the 48-year-old with Midazolam.

The inquest at Smethwick Council House heard she had been restless and distressed and a Macmillan nurse had suggested the medication to a district nurse.

Dr Riaz Ahmed, giving evidence at Monday's hearing, said he instructed a nurse to inject her with 2.5-5mg of the drug and to use a syringe driver, if required, to deliver a maximum dosage of 50mg over a 24-hour period.

But instead two injections, each containing 10mg of the drug, were given within minutes of each other and another 20mg dose was gradually administered through the syringe driver.

Instructed

District nurse Gillian Mason, who gave Mrs Gunter the medication, told the inquest she was instructed to change the dose by another doctor.

She said: "I thought 20mg was quite a large amount to be administering. I said I already had a directive of 2.5-5mg. He said the patient was quite agitated and 20mg was required."

Mrs Gunter's daughter Claire told the hearing that her mother became calm after receiving the drug. She said: "It wasn't until the next morning her breathing became erratic. Never did I think she was going to die in the matter of an hour."

She said two nurses had visited the house on March 8 and she overheard them saying too much medication had been administered.

The inquest heard Mrs Gunter, who was a cleaner at Walsall's Saddlers Centre, was diagnosed with cancer in 2007. A post-mortem found the cause of death to be respiratory failure and tumours were also found in her brain, lungs and liver.

The inquest continues.

Homeserve profit surge

HomeServe, the Walsall home emergency insurance group, announced a 16 per cent surge in profits, with business booming both at home and overseas. Around 1,800 people are employed at its Green Lane base.

The company said underlying revenue for the year to March 31 was up 15 per cent to £425.4 million, with adjusted profit before tax jumping 16 per cent to £117.1m.

Richard Harpin, chief executive, said: "The business really is firing on all cylinders."

"We are still seeing good growth coming out of the UK," he added.

Crafty day on the cards



Workshop Leader Kiran Muctor gets ready for the card making activities at Walsall Museum, Lichfield Street, Walsall during half term.

Walsall Museum is getting crafty this half term with a drop in card making workshop focused on Father's day.

The card making session will take place on Thursday June 2, from 11am until 1pm, at the museum, Lichfield Street. Children aged between five and 12 are invited to come and make cards for their dads. They must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission is 75p per child and no booking is required.

Rescue site taking fewer stray dogs

An animal rescue centre in Walsall has reduced the number of stray dogs it takes in after it was closed down because of an outbreak of an infectious illness.

Rosedene Animal Rescue in Rushall now has a stricter admissions policy to ensure pets are not suffering from contagious illness.

It now has more room to care for animals which need to stay at the centre for more than a week. Unwanted pets handed in by owners must have medical notes so everything is known about their background.

The changes were introduced because of an outbreak of the potentially deadly parvovirus, which was passed on to existing dogs being cared for at the centre due to infected strays.

Councils stopped sending dogs to the Radley Road centre when illness spread among the animals in December last year.

Rosedene owner Des Goodall said: "We have changed the emphasis of the centre by taking in much fewer strays, accepting more boarders and dogs people can no longer care for."

"Since we started doing this in January we have not had any disease outbreaks here."

"When pets are out on the streets for a while they tend to pick up infections and we were taking these animals in which caused us all sorts of problems."

"We always had the boarding block, but the space was gradually taken over by the number of strays. We have spruced up and reinstated the boarding block and it is being solely used now for that purpose."

"We now also arrange for pet owners who can no longer look after their dogs due to moving, or relationship breakdown or whatever reason to deliver animals along with the vets' record so we can see exactly what treatments it has had and verify it with the vet."

Drugs found in a cubby hole

Cannabis plants worth thousands of pounds were discovered in a secret room in a seemingly-ordinary house in Darlaston.

The find was made during a series of police raids targeting drug operations and people with outstanding court fines.

In the first of the raids at 7.40am, 10 cannabis plants worth £3,000, were found in the secret cubby hole behind a fake wall and door in a ground-floor maisonette in Park Street, Darlaston.

A man in his 50s was arrested, during the raid, on suspicion of the cultivation of cannabis and was in police custody.

Other raids took place to crackdown on people with unpaid fines for offences including criminal damage, theft and driving matters.

Officers went door-to-door asking people to pay up or be taken into custody and hauled before magistrates.

A total of 12 people were arrested for non-payment of fines in Blawith, Darlaston and Moxley. In total, they owed £25,000.

One was a 43-year-old woman who had not paid back £7,600 from a benefit fraud.

The doorstep raids were part of Operation Crackdown, led by Sgt Helen Carver, who said: "Numerous letters have been sent to these people and invites to a fines surgery – they have ignored them several times. They have been given many chances."

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Spate of thefts hit borough

Laptop computers, jewellery and cars have been stolen in a recent spate of burglaries across Walsall.

The thefts have taken place around the borough, including Bloxwich and Delves, but police said they had made arrests and charges in relation to the crimes. Officers have been raiding the homes of known thieves over the past few days.

It is part of Operation Serve and Protect, which targets offenders already on the force's radar. Arrests have included a 41-year-old man from Delves. He was arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle and theft of batteries. He has now been bailed pending further inquiries. Meanwhile, a 20-year-old man from Bloxwich was in police custody after appearing at Walsall Magistrates Court charged with burglary.

He is accused of breaking into a property in High Street, Bloxwich, on May 16 and stealing a laptop computer and a watch.

Operation Serve and Protect was launched last month to keep an eye on known offenders and combat the seasonal rise in crime over the summer.

Det Ch Insp Ian Bamber said: "Officers across Walsall are committed to delivering a first-class service to our communities and tackling the main offenders who cause misery in Walsall."

"We know who the people are who are causing our communities harm and we are working hard to catch and arrest them."

Canal festival on common

Canal enthusiasts from across the country will descend on Walsall next month when Birmingham Canal Navigations Society holds its annual festival. The event will be on June 11 and 12 at Pelsall Wood Common, off Wood Lane, Pelsall.

It has been supported by Inland Waterways Association, Longwood Boat Club and Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

The event will include stalls, entertainment, displays, refreshments and boat trips, and admission is free. Call 0121 355 6351.

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Appeal on fostering

People in Walsall are being asked to consider becoming a foster parent.

The council's fostering and adoption services has issued the appeal.

The campaign aims to encourage people with the right skills and qualities to meet the needs of children in care. Nationally, there is a shortage of at least 10,000 foster carers and 50 locally. Mary Banks, interim team manager for fostering and adoption

services, said: "Foster carers have a vital role to play in giving children in care the best possible chance in life."

They can provide temporary and permanent placements as well as breaks for disabled children.

The team will hold an information day at St Paul's Church, The Crossings, Darwall Street, Walsall, on June 2 from 9am to 4pm. For information, call 0800 923 3706.

2,000 complain about hospitals in region

More than 2,000 complaints were made to hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire in just 12 months. Figures show how some hospitals are receiving more than 10 times as many complaints as others across the region.

Gripes raised by patients include delayed or cancelled appointments, standards of treatment and staff behaviour towards individuals. Others made claims about staff diagnosis and communication problems. Health chiefs vowed to heed any concerns raised.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Charity is hoping to relaunch

A Walsall welfare advice charity which folded last month due to a funding shortfall is hoping to relaunch after being offered a temporary home.

Trelawny Overseas Relief Association (TORA) closed at the end of April after providing drop-in advice on benefits, immigration and housing issues to hundreds of disadvantaged people for the past 12 years.

But Tora chairman Moses Whyte said Caldmore Housing Association had since offered the charity use of its Caldmore Green premises for three days a week.

He said negotiations were also ongoing with a landlord to move to a permanent site in Ablewell Street where the charity could relaunch its drop-in service.

Mr Whyte said: "Even now people are phoning up to get advice. They are supportive of this charity and don't want to see it closed. I am hoping we will be able to get a grant to continue."

"If we are able to move into the building in Ablewell Street permanently we will be able to open five days a week. At the moment Caldmore Housing Association will let us use their building three times a week starting next month."

Mike Hew, chief executive of Caldmore Housing Association, said: "TORA is a very worthwhile charity that has done a lot of fantastic work."

Anyone who can help with funding or needs advice can call 07787 513934.

Embroidery classes

An embroidery workshop will be held at Walsall Museum on June 9. The session is the first of two at the Lichfield Street venue between 12.30pm and 2pm. Admission is 75p. Call 01922 653116.

Geography project

Students at a school in Walsall spent a day exploring the town centre during a geography project.

Fourteen Year 9 pupils from Queen Mary's High School took part in the "urban field trip" as part of a project supported by TV wildman Steve Backshall and commercial real estate organisation Colliers International. Schools all over the country took part in the geography scheme,

and the pupils who come up with the best results will be presented with prizes in November.

The Walsall students hit the streets with a professional geographer and a photographer to help compare different parts of the town.

Paul Vockins, from Colliers International, said: "The activities and themes covered can be tailored to reflect pupils' topic of study."

Calls to bulldoze old pub

A derelict Bloxwich pub which has become a blot on the landscape should be bulldozed as soon as possible, say councillors.

Planning permission was given to SEP Properties Ltd last year for 17 one-bedroom flats on land where The Eagle pub stands in Cresswell Crescent. It fell into further disrepair since consent was given, and is a magnet for vandals and metal thieves. Councillors and Walsall North MP David Winnick want the developer to get the building demolished.

Bloxwich councillors Fred Westley and Sue Fletcher-Hall want action. Councillor Westley said: "For quite some time the pub has become a bigger and bigger eye sore."

"I don't see any reason why residents should have to put up with it, the property should be taken down, out of the way."

"There's nothing left inside the building, all the copper piping and anything of value has been taken by undesirables."

The pub, which stands at the junction of Tintern Crescent, has been out of use since 2007 when it closed after Stuart Nelson was shot in the leg after a fight broke out on St Patrick's Day.

Mr Winnick said: "The fact of the matter is that this former pub has become an ugly eyesore and is a nuisance for nearby residents."

40 fans booted out in season

More than 40 badly behaved fans were ejected from Walsall Football Club's stadium during the last season.

The fans, mainly visiting supporters, were given the red card for a string of offences. These included pitch invasion, verbal abuse and smoking during matches.

Walsall Football Club's safety officer Dave Storr said 36 away fans and five Saddlers were escorted from the grounds by the stewards.

But he said the message that bad behaviour would not be tolerated was getting through, as there were less incidents overall when compared to the previous season when 48 away fans and 19 home fans were ejected.

A further five away fans were refused entry to the Bescot Crescent ground after turning up drunk at the gate this season compared to 11 the previous year.

While five people were ejected for using foul language or running on to the pitch.

Children can get to make animals

Children are being invited to create sock monkeys and animals from felt at Walsall Leather Museum next month.

Artist Ruth Turnbull will lead the workshops on June 1. Sessions run 10.30am-12.30pm for youngsters aged five to seven and 1.30-3.30pm for eight to 12-year-olds. Call 01922 721153.

Whirly bird gets to tweet



Unit executive officer Dave Mitchell, and ACC Garry Forsyth, launch the Twitter feed



The cockpit of the latest police helicopter at Tally Ho Police Training Ground

The team behind West Midlands Police's £4.5 million helicopter have been lifting the lid on its operations. The new aircraft, which came into service in August last year, has already attended nearly 4,000 call-outs.

The unit that runs it has now launched its own feed on Twitter to update the minute updates on the helicopter's work and see the policing operations it is involved

with. The page already has more than 1,000 followers and has received positive feedback from the public.

The helicopter reaches speeds of 160mph.

Since its operation it has already helped in the recovery of £1m of property. Assistant Chief Constable Garry Forsyth said it allows the staff of a civilian pilot and two officers to conduct searches of areas in minutes.

Head of operations Sgt Dave Mitchell said: "This is one of the most advanced aircraft in the world. The things it can do are quite incredible."

One of the helicopter's crew is 38-year-old Pc Matt Holder, from Tamworth. He said: "It's just like being in a patrol car. You just have a better view."

To view the Twitter feed log on to www.twitter.com/WMP_Heli or call 01922 721153.

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£30,000 jobs centre opens

A new £30,000 jobs and training advice centre has been set up in a former Walsall shop. The new One Stop job shop is in Caldmore Green, Caldmore.

Advisors at the centre, launched by Steps to Work, will give residents a helping hand to make the most of opportunities to access hundreds of job vacancies and careers advice. Steps to Work, a jobs and skills training

service, said Caldmore was a deprived area with a high number of claimants.

The project aims to help more residents overcome barriers which may prevent them from finding employment, such as a lack of suitable qualifications or self-confidence.

Steps to Work spokeswoman Katie Sohal said: "We have revamped the outside of the

building quite considerably, refurbished the signs, fitted new windows and carried out painting. We have had building and decorating work carried out, a new disabled toilet installed and the rear yard which was once used to dump rubbish has now been totally cleared up.

It is open 9am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays. Residents can just call in and visit the team.

Pupils well behaved

A report by Ofsted has found more than 86 per cent of schools were rated good or outstanding for behaviour in Walsall. The figure was slightly down on the previous year.

Latest Government figures show how many primary, secondary and special schools were rated as outstanding, good, satisfactory or inadequate for pupils' behaviour during 2010 by Ofsted. Nationally, 1,764 schools, or eight per cent, were rated

by inspectors as satisfactory or inadequate for behaviour out of 21,347.

In Walsall, 86.6 per cent of schools were rated good or outstanding for behaviour in 2010 – slightly down from 87.6 per cent in 2009.

In Wolverhampton, the figure was 93.1 per cent – down from 95.2 per cent. The city's pupils fared well against other councils in the West Midlands, finishing joint top alongside Herefordshire.

Town market is set to get an overhaul

Willenhall Market is to be overhauled after it emerged fewer than half of its stalls are filled on key shopping days.

The market is struggling on Fridays and Saturdays, with only about 25 of its 70 stalls occupied. However, its Wednesday market is booming, with 66 pitches filled. Council bosses said they were now looking to make the Friday and Saturday markets "more attractive". The occupancy rate on Friday and Saturdays has been steadily in decline.

Twelve months ago, about five more stalls were being taken up than there are now on both days.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said bosses would be working to breathe new life into the market and encouraged people to visit.

"We're taking a close look at Willenhall Market," he said. "Wednesday is going great guns. We have a vibrant market with 66 stalls, with something approaching 100 per cent occupancy."

"Our Friday and Saturday markets have around 25 stalls which is compared to around 30 stalls just over 12 months ago. We're looking to make Friday and Saturday markets more attractive."

Discussions are to take place with traders about how to boost its fortunes.

Markets in the Black Country are struggling, with issues such as the rise of supermarkets and costly stall rents blamed for the problems. The arrival of Morrisons in 2010 has been blamed for killing off trade in Willenhall.

Willenhall trader Bob Giles, known as Bob King, of King's Fruit and Vegetable was forced to lay off three staff last year after trade dipped.

Mr King, who is also chairman of Willenhall Market Traders Association, said he thought the market had "come to a stop".

It's a tough time for markets all over the region in the current climate. The recently relaunched Brownhills Market has been cut to one day a week due to a fall in shoppers.

Darlaston Market has also been axed, as was Wolverhampton's weekly Dudley Street Market.

Bollards cut site problem

Security bollards have finally been installed on a problem patch of land in Walsall after more than two years of fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and travellers setting up home.

The green space off Walsall Road in Pelsall has left long-suffering residents and councillors at their wits' end as it is regularly covered with litter and waste.

But security bollards have now been installed to solve the problems.

Council bosses temporarily blocked the access route with a skip full of concrete but the permanent bollards were put in by the land owner last week. Pelsall Councillors Marco Longhi and Garry Perry have been fighting to secure the land for years.

Councillor Longhi said he was pleased something had been done but "disappointed" the bollards were not bigger.

He said: "I am in some senses happy that this has been done, although it wasn't the job I wanted. I'm a bit sceptical and disappointed in the robustness of the posts."

Cllr Longhi feared a solid vehicle might push them over.

Fun days in parks

Activities are being staged at parks across Walsall.

The fun days kick off on May 30 at Palfrey Park and will draw to a close on August 31 at Reedswood Park.

Attractions on offer include children's rides, inflatables, charity stalls, Punch and Judy, music, face painting and storytelling.

Admission is free but charges and age restrictions will apply on the rides. The days will run from 10.30am to 4pm. Ten other events will be announced closer to the time.

Family is devastated after pet cat is shot

A devastated Walsall family have told how their cat died after being shot by a pellet gun – the fourth time one of their pets has been targeted.

Bill, a two-year-old Siamese, belonged to the Peters family of Bloxwich, who have now had four of their cats shot with pellets in the last six years. He died last week due to a wound in his stomach. The RSPCA has condemned the latest crime as a mindless attack on an innocent animal and appealed for information and witnesses. Bill was shot on May 11.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Grandfather was 'rushed into home'

A retired family butcher who died after two severe falls was "rushed" out of Walsall Manor Hospital and into a care home too quickly, a coroner said. Grandfather-of-one John Robinson, died in April 2009.

The butcher who used to run W J Robinson & Sons in Chasetown, was admitted to the borough hospital with a serious chest infection in January 2009 – but was discharged to Chaseview Care Home in Burntwood on March 3 of the same year.

At the home, he suffered a fractured hip in a fall and was rushed back to the Manor, where he fell out of bed within two weeks and injured his hip again, Walsall Coroner's Court heard last week.

The 79-year-old, who had Alzheimer's, died of natural causes, contributed to by the falls.

Apost mortem revealed Mr Robinson, who previously lived at Homestead Care Home, Ogley Road, Brownhills, had a lower respiratory tract infection.

Assistant deputy Black Country coroner Clive Loynds said the admission to the care home, in Water Street, had been rushed and not all necessary equipment was there.

Speaking after the inquest, Mr Robinson's son Derek Robinson, aged 55, of Burntwood, said: "There were some errors along the way in my father's care."

£35m panels contract is set to create 60 new jobs

More than 60 jobs will be created by a Walsall construction firm after it won a £35 million contract to fit solar panels to thousands of homes.

Maintenance and repairs specialist G Purchase Construction, Walsall has sealed a deal with Birmingham City Council to work on more than 2,500 properties as part of a building improvements programme. Chairman Paul Hargrave said the deal opened huge opportunities.

The pet cat was in intensive care at Melbourne Veterinary Centre, Cannock.

The family lost Siamese Sydney to a pellet wound six years ago and moggie Yoda four years ago.

Their Siamese, Namagon, was also shot in the side but survived.

Robert and Anne Peters, both aged 59, said they were disgusted by the attacks.

Daughter Laura, a 26-year-old medical worker, added: "Who would do such a thing? It is absolutely disgusting and it causes so much pain to the family."

"It is the worst feeling in the world when we discover another one of our cats has been hurt. It is a nightmare."

Gunshot

"The vet who treated Sydney all those years ago said it was the most horrific gunshot wound she'd ever seen, and now poor Bill has been killed too."

Both the family and the RSPCA are now appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

A call has gone out for anyone living in the area around Stafford Road and Lichfield Road who may know something or experienced something similar to get in touch.

Bill had to undergo emergency surgery after being shot but could not survive his injuries.

RSPCA inspector Martin Dolan said: "This was a nasty attack on an innocent animal."

"Any attack of this nature is just mindless."

"We now want to hear from anyone who may know something about these shocking crimes."

People can call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.



Laura Peters and father Bob Peters with a picture of their pet cat Bill

14 held in warrants blitz

Fourteen people with warrants for outstanding fines of more than £26,000 in Walsall were arrested following police raids.

Officers recovered more than £1,200 in outstanding fines at the door and those who could not pay were arrested and taken directly to court.

Police and officers from Her Majesty's Court Service were involved in Operation Crackdown. It was targeted at criminals with outstanding community breach warrants, commitment to prison warrants and outstanding fines.

A total of 14 people were arrested

and taken to court last week for offences of non-payment of fines and offences such as theft, having an offensive weapon, driving convictions and non-payment of TV licence.

Sgt Helen Carver, who co-ordinated the operation, said: "To have brought so many outstanding prisoners into custody and produced them before the courts has been a real achievement for the teams working so tirelessly on this operation."

"In a similar two-week initiative in Walsall, Sandwell and Birmingham in March we made 200 arrests," she added.

Gang attack pupil to steal his mobile

A schoolboy was jumped on by three attackers who stole his mobile phone in Willenhall.

The 14-year-old was walking home when he was attacked by youths on the island above The Keyway. He was jumped on by three others who then ran off along Bilston Road. The teenager was left shaken but unhurt.

Police are now appealing for witnesses to the robbery between 3.05pm and 3.10pm on May 3. Two of the men were mixed-race and in their late teens. They were all wearing hooded tops.

De Genna Pryce from Walsall CID said: "The three offenders ran off and joined another group of youths in Bilston Road. We are hoping someone may have seen the incident and come forward with information."

Anyone with information can call detectives at Walsall CID on 0345 113 5000.

Bullied teenager to tell others of her experiences

A teenager who was so badly bullied because of her cerebral palsy that she had to switch schools is going back into the classroom to educate others.

Lateefa Hans of Darlaston says she will use painful memories from her schooldays at roadshows to stop people "feeling sorry for people like me and instead treating us as equals".

Now aged 19, Lateefa is working with charity Rathbone, which helped to build up her confidence, literacy and numeracy skills, and complete a work placement at a charity shop. Rathbone Walsall runs courses for unemployed 16 to 18-year-olds.

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More events are planned

Festivals, concerts and celebrations for the Queen's diamond jubilee could all take place at Barr Beacon in Walsall due to previous events being so popular, according to a new report.

More than 500 people have turned out each time to events held at the attraction, prompting bosses to plan more.

Bands on the Beacon, Beacon Wonderland and Meteor Watch, all held in 2010, proved popular and "demonstrated the variety of activities that could take place on and around the site."

A report to Walsall Council from the Barr Beacon

Trust Management Committee says more events could take place, in conjunction with nearby Collingwood Community Centre, Pheasey.

The report outlines the committee's work from 2010 to 2011.

It includes the creation of a short promotional video about Barr Beacon and future plans to create a smart phone app to advertise it to a wider audience.

But the report says vandalism attacks and metal thefts which have blighted Barr Beacon War Memorial have had an impact.

Appeal on road rage

Police are appealing for witnesses to a road rage incident in Walsall.

A man aged between 48 and 50 was abusive and threatening towards a man and his 12-year-old daughter at the junction of Longwood Lane and Sutton Road in Walsall at about 3.10pm on May 17.

The man was a passenger in a small silver car and got out to confront the father and daughter in the other car. He was between 6ft and 6ft 2in and

of large build with short brown hair, and wore a green t-shirt and white tracksuit bottoms. He then got back into the car and left.

Sgt Bob Harris said: "It is not known what had upset him, but we would like to trace any witnesses to the incident who can help us identify him." The man was a passenger in a small silver car, and part of the registration was BL. Witnesses can call 0345 113 5000.

Pub revamp will bring in 50 new jobs

Walsall council chiefs have backed plans for opening a pub and restaurant that will create up to 50 jobs in Brownhills.

Brewer Greene King has been given the nod to take over the former Hussey Arms, Chester Road North.

The building, which has stood empty since last year, will be extended and transformed as part of the ambitious scheme, which was approved through delegated council powers. Brownhills councillor Alan Paul has welcomed news of the relaunch of the pub.

"It is an excellent building in a lovely setting. Years ago it was a very popular pub. It will be welcomed in the area," he said.

The proposals for the new pub include a single-storey extension, new restaurant, lounge, family patio area, playground and car park.

A smoking shelter also forms part of the application. It was approved on the condition that CCTV is installed at the premises.

Head of planning at Walsall Council David Elsworth said: "The design of the proposal is considered compatible with the existing building and would not have a significant impact on the character of the area."

Greene King, which is based in Suffolk, will now be able to push ahead with its designs.

Architect Jim Ashbridge, of John Dixon & Associates Ltd, said, the development will create around 50 jobs – a positive factor in the current economic climate.

The Hussey Arms is the latest pub in the borough which will give a new lease of life.

JD Wetherspoon has announced it is further investing in Walsall by ploughing a total of £1.3 million into the former Matha's Vineyard in the town centre, a project that will create about 40 new jobs.

Speed cut bid in limbo

Controversial plans to reduce the speed limit along some of Walsall's busiest roads are still hanging in the balance after objectors refused to back down.

The proposals for a 30mph limit on 40mph Sutton Road, Wolverhampton Road and Bosty Lane will now have to be considered by council planning bosses. The scheme, which aims to reduce accidents on the main roads, could be thrown out.

An electronic speed warning sign along Sutton Road is also likely to remain switched off until a final decision has been made.

The plans are on hold after complaints were lodged with transport bosses at Walsall Council. The scheme will now have to be considered by the planning committee.

Transport chief Mark Rickard, said: "Six objections were received, two of which specifically related to Sutton Road."

"Letters were sent to all the objectors outlining the proposals and the reasons behind them and inviting them to reconsider."

Teams wanted

Five-a-side football teams are wanted for a tournament to raise cash for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

The competition will be at Pulse Soccer & Fitness in Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, from 11am on July 2. The entry fee is £50 for a team of up to eight players and trophies will be awarded to the winning teams.

The £5.5million hospice in Goscoe Lane, Goscoe, was finally completed earlier this year.

For more information or to register call St Giles Walsall Hospice fundraisers on 0845 113 0678

Pupils call for action on dog mess problem

Youngsters concerned about the dog mess in their area have written to the local press and Willenhall North councillor Ian Shires to get some action. They go to Woodlands Primary School, Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall.

One pupil, Elliott Meredith-Dicken, aged 11, said it made the school look like an "eyesore" and urged Walsall Council to put out special bins, while others highlighted the problem parents with pushchairs faced. Some of the letters suggested council staff should patrol the footpaths and give hefty fines to irresponsible dog owners.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Making a difference



Patient Keith Faulkner and St Giles Hospice senior health care assistant Diane Takhar

A patient has welcomed the "world of difference" the new St Giles Walsall Hospice being closer to home is making to patients in the town.

Keith Faulkner, aged 58, has had to make regular 90-minute round trips to use the St Giles hospice in Lichfield, but can now cut the journey down to 15-minutes each way to the new hospice in Goscoe, Walsall.

Former carpet retail businessman Mr Faulkner, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer 20 years ago, said: "What St Giles has done for me is just unbelievable. They have turned my life around 101 per cent and if more people in Walsall are going to be able to feel this way, it will make a world of difference."

He was given six weeks to live at age 38. He underwent a massive operation to remove tissue affected by his cancer, and although this saved his life, Keith, of Cheslyn Hay, has suffered poor health ever since, losing the feeling in his lower legs, developing diabetes, and, seven years ago, being diagnosed with heart failure.

"Emotionally, this diagnosis brought a very bad time for me and my wife, Doreen," he said.

"It was my heart nurse who said she thought we needed some extra support and mentioned St Giles might be able to provide it. My initial reaction was 'no way'. To me, a hospice was a place people go to die. But I looked at the hospice's website, and agreed to have a look around."

Headteacher Jane Arnstein said: "It has always been a problem but it was particularly shocking just before Easter."

"Every day we had parents coming in saying their children had stepped in it. We were having to issue rubber gloves and wipes."

"The Year 6 pupils came up with the idea to write letters to the newspaper. There were about 30 children who participated. We don't let dogs on the site so I know it's not the parents. We want dog walkers to listen and clean up after their dogs. Writing these letters demonstrates that not all children are anti-social too."

Terrible

Pupil Sophie Maiden said: "We wanted to name and shame the people doing this. The mess is terrible and there's a lot of it."

"We hope it will make the owners stop and think and pick the mess up."

Councillor Shires said he would be meeting with pupils on Monday to talk to them about their concerns.

He said: "They put together these letters. It's obviously an important issue."

"There are a number of dog owners who don't do the proper thing of picking it up and that's an issue."

David Ellington, area manager for environmental health at Walsall Council, said: "Wherever possible we erect no fouling signs and monitor hot spot areas as regularly as we are able to catch the perpetrators."

He encouraged people to report incidents of dog fouling to help plan patrols more effectively.



Pupils at Woodlands Primary School, Willenhall, who have had enough of dog mess littering nearby footpaths are, back from left, Ajit Singh, aged 11, and Sophie Worrallo, 11. Front from left, Thomas Ward, 11, and Sophie Maiden, 10

Weekly walks to improve fitness

A new weekly walk has been launched in Walsall to encourage people to stay fit and healthy.

The one-mile stroll is part of the Walk On health walks programme organised through Walsall Council.

It starts at Bentley Leisure Pavilion, Bentley Road North, on Wednesdays and lasts around 30 minutes.

People should meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

It is the latest addition to the walks programme which is free to attend, and participants are eligible for Groundmiles discount vouchers.

Richard Upton, active lifestyle officer, said: "Walking is one of the best forms of physical activity you can do."

"Regular walking has many benefits, these include weight control, keeping your heart healthy and reducing stress."

To book a spot call on 01902 605500.

Exhibition on Manor

The changing face of Walsall Manor Hospital has been documented in an exhibition at the town's New Art Gallery. Changes made to the hospital as part of the £170 million redevelopment have been captured by photographer Gemma Thorpe, and are on show at the gallery in the Transition show until June 18. She began capturing the changes in 2010 and her work includes staff and patients in the old hospital. After the exhibition is taken down it will be moved for permanent display inside the new hospital building.

Abseil raises £25,000

Daredevils who took part in a charity abseil have raised £25,000 for a children's hospice. More than 150 people took part in the event at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham recently, abseiling from 100ft for Acorns Children's Hospice. For details on ways to support the hospice, telephone 01564 82 5000.

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75 drivers caught in 3 hours

Seventy-five drivers were caught using bus lanes and making banned turns in a three-hour police blitz in Walsall town centre.

The operation followed complaints motorists are ignoring new road layouts and risking accidents after a number of near-misses in Walsall.

Drivers were targeted for travelling in the bus lane along Hatherton Road, turning right into Lichfield Street and going along Bridge Street. Motorists were hit with £30 fixed penalty notices during the crackdown last week.

Hatherton Road was closed to all through traffic at the junction of Hatherton Street, apart from buses and bicycles, last summer as part of an overhaul around the new Tesco supermarket.

Cars travelling along Hatherton Street in the direction of the town should also go left when they get to Lichfield Street and not past the town hall. But drivers have continued to ignore the new rules.

Officers issued 39 tickets to motorists ignoring the restriction in Hatherton Road and another 24 for turning right into Lichfield Street.

A further 12 tickets were given to drivers breaking the law by travelling along Bridge Street towards the bus station in St Paul's Street. Two were given £60 fines - one for not wearing a seatbelt and another for having a number plate that did not conform to standards. Ten of the tickets were handed to taxi drivers.

There have been a series of accidents near the station including a collision between two cars and two buses earlier this year.

Bulldozer is levelling court

Demolition of the former Aldridge Magistrates Court to create a new £2 million office and housing complex is under way.

The building is being flattened to make way for a two-storey office block and nine flats in Court Parade. The residential building will have six two-bedroom and three three-bedroom flats.

Developer Aldridge Prime Ltd hopes the scheme will boost the town's fortunes and attract fledgling enterprises.

The complex, which had underground cells, has been standing empty and boarded up since 2006.

The new development will feature a 69-space car park comprising 23 bays for office users, 16 for the flats and 30 for the existing offices at nearby Centre House. A previous application to refurbish the building was withdrawn last August.

Church fete day

A Walsall church is staging a fete to boost funds for the congregation. Blakenall United Reformed Church, Blakenall Lane will hold a fete on June 18 which will include a tombola and stalls with all money going to church funds. Tickets are 30p in advance from members of the congregation or 50p on the door.

Push on pub plans

The owners of a former Willenhall pub are hoping to move restoration plans forward by meeting with an architect in the next few months.

The Bell Inn, Market Place was taken over by a group of local people last September after it fell into disrepair. It was bought for £40,000 by a consortium, made up of four people, who are intending to restore the Grade-II listed building for the good

of the community. One option for the building is to turn it into a commercial venture on the ground floor, with exhibition rooms upstairs.

Stan Taylor, one of the members of the consortium, said the group was in the process of choosing an architect to work with them and look at the interior design of the building. He said: "We will be talking with an architect about what is required."

Lease bid for horses

Horse owners in Walsall could soon be offered short-term leases on public land in a bid to stop the "out of control" problem of untethered animals roaming around.

Councillors are working on a plan to allow owners to rent convenient patches of land, with the promise of maintaining them temporarily.

Blakenall councillor Ian Robertson, who is working on the scheme,

said there were more than 100 animals roaming around the borough. He said the policy was needed to tackle the problem as it was becoming more dangerous for drivers.

The proposal will go before the full council in June.

"I think we should address this issue much more seriously," Councillor Robertson said.

Fines in metal theft blitz

Two drivers were fined on the spot and 19 vehicles were stopped as part of the latest police crackdown on metal thefts in Walsall.

Officers held their sixth day of action as they continue their fight against metal thieves. It comes after figures showed there were 115 reports of metal thefts in Walsall in April, down from 122 in March.

Nineteen vehicles were stopped during the Operation Steel crackdown, in which police visited scrap metal dealers and stopped vehicles carrying metal.

Two vehicles were seized for having no insurance and two others were taken off the road and reported for chassis defects.

The driver of one of the recovered vehicles will also be appearing before court at a later date for driving without a licence.

Another driver received an on-the-spot fine of £500 for fuelling his vehicle with illegal red diesel.

A £60 fine and three points were handed to another driver who was caught towing a trailer without displaying the registration number correctly.

Ch Insp Paul Farley, from Walsall police station, said: "Walsall police take metal thefts very seriously and we will continue to target individuals and premises where we believe stolen metal is purchased or disposed of."

Anyone with information on metal thefts should call Walsall police on 0345 113 5000.

Thieves raid car of mourner in cemetery

Heartless thieves broke into a mourner's car as she attended her grandfather's funeral, stealing a handbag, cash, and two computers.

A laptop, iPad, mobile phone and £100 was stolen from Rachel Marsh's people carrier as she paid her last respects to Frederick Tiso at Streetly Crematorium.

It was the latest theft from cars left in car parks in Little Hardwick Road and other cemeteries in the Walsall area and police have now warned those attending funerals to be vigilant.

Ms Marsh, aged 36, said she and her 12-year-old son Christopher had been left devastated by the theft, which took place around 1pm on May 17.

A window of her silver Kia was smashed and her handbag and electronic items were stolen.

It happened as Ms Marsh, who had travelled from her home in Somerset, was visiting the graves of relatives following the service for Mr Tiso, of Foley Road, Streetly, who died aged 84.

"I was already feeling upset about my granddad passing away, then this happened on top of everything," she said.

Relatives

"The service was at 12.30pm. Then I drove along the exit lane and pulled into the oval car park so I could visit the graves of my other relatives who were laid to rest there.

"At the time there seemed to be plenty of people around also visiting graves.

"When I returned to my car a short time later I found the drivers' window broken and my handbag, the contents and the laptop gone.

"I just want to warn other people that this is happening at the crematorium and they should look after valuables. It was a horrible experience," said Ms Marsh, a production planner.

Police warned last month there had been a rise in criminals targeting car parks at the crematorium and cemeteries across the borough.

Motorists are urged to lock their cars and remove any belongings from view.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Joanne Hunt said inquiries were ongoing in relation to Tuesday's theft and asked anyone with information should contact the Walsall station on 0345 113 5000.

Novelist enthrals students



Novelist John Boyne with pupils, from left, Jasmine Kaur, Dilpreet Kaur, Naseeb Kaur and Megan Corner

A fascinated audience listened to novelist John Boyne as he read a passage from his new book at Walsall Library.

Mr Boyne, author of best-selling *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, read from newly-released novel *The Absolutist*. He told Queen Mary's High School pupils about writing his best-seller non-stop for 60 hours without sleep.

He said "I started with just an image in my head of a fence and two boys sitting either side, talking to each other.

"I started writing on the Wednesday morning and felt if I walked away from it I was going to lose it completely."

So he carried on writing right through Thursday night.

Karaoke pulls in the pounds

A karaoke evening in Walsall raised more than £1,000 for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

The karaoke evening, which included a disco, auction and raffle, was held at Bar NV, Bradford Street.

Organisers contacted most of the businesses in the area to collect raffle and auction prizes, which included a century-old bottle of wine, a Liverpool FC stadium tour and an iPod shuffle. They raised £1,190 for St Giles, in Goscoe Lane.

Bar NV owners Amers Kudhail and promotions manager Phil Candlin teamed up with Walsall karaoke king Robbie Williams. Mr Candlin said: "It was a brilliant event and fantastic to see so many people turn up."

Man is punched in racist attack

A man was racially abused and attacked in Willenhall. The 21-year-old victim was left with bruising and swelling after being punched in the face in Straight Road.

The man was approached by three white men, who racially abused him, said police.

The attack took place around 3.20pm on May 14.

The victim said the attackers were aged between 20 and 26. One of them, had a medium build, short spiky brown hair and was riding a bike. Anyone with information can police on 0345 113 5000.

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Hospital defends agency spend

Walsall Manor Hospital has defended the increase in its monthly bill for hiring agency staff.

The hospital shelled out £436,000 on agency staff in March, up £28,000 in a month.

In September last year spending on agency staff was £361,000, a figure health chiefs predicted would be lowered by hiring more permanent staff.

The hospital has now insisted a recruit-

ment day had in fact lowered its agency spend on nursing staff, and the reason the overall figure saw a hike was down to medical staff, who were not the subject of a recruitment drive. Sue Wakeman, director of human resources at Walsall Manor Hospital said: "The increase in agency spend is related to medical staff who were not part of the recruitment exercise in November 2010. "The nursing agency spend is in fact showing a decrease in

March's figure." Expenditure on medical agency staff had increased by £117,000 over the year. Most of this went on unplanned care, while nursing agency costs have decreased by £41,000 to £137,000. The trust's overall outlay on temporary workers was just over £4.3 million for 2010/11, according to a report which went before its board of directors last week, accounting for 3.89 per cent of the total wages bill.

Families show for clean-up

Volunteers from a Walsall community turned out in force to clear the streets of rubbish.

Despite wet weather around 25 residents took to the streets in Caldmore to pick up litter from the village green, surrounding streets and footpaths.

The event was the fourth clean-up organised by Caldmore Village Festival Group with Walsall Council's Big Tidy Up 2011 campaign.

Residents filled four skips with rubbish. Participants included residents, councillors, representatives from Walsall Area Partnership, Walsall Council, Walsall Housing Group, Caldmore Housing Group and businesses.

The chairman of Walsall South Area Partnership, Councillor Zahid Ali, said: "Considering the heavy rain this was another good turn out. It's great to see people taking pride in their community and working alongside all the partners to improve their community."

The next tidy up in Caldmore is scheduled to take place October 1.

Tragedy inspires Zoe to enter contest



Law student Zoe Dallaway, aged 20, who has been chosen as this year's Pelsall Carnival queen

A law student has been selected as a carnival queen in Walsall after being encouraged to enter the annual competition by her late friend.

Zoe Dallaway said she was inspired to go for the Pelsall crown by close family friend Gilbert Durbin, who died of cancer.

Miss Dallaway, aged 20, said: "He lost his battle with prostate cancer last year. But before that, each and every year he encouraged me to take part but I never

entered. I saw him as my uncle and wanted to enter this year in his honour.

"I explained why I had entered during the interview stage of the competition and broke down in tears. I didn't think I would come close to being picked. I was amazed." Miss Dallaway, of Allens Lane, Pelsall, is studying law at Birmingham Metropolitan College, Sutton Coldfield. She will then be continuing her studies at Wolverhampton University in September and is also looking for

work in a law firm as a legal executive. She was selected during a competition held at Pelsall Community Centre, in Station Road.

She will be officially crowned on July 2, when the carnival will take place at Pelsall Common.

Amie Moorhouse, aged 14, of Wolverhampton Road, Pelsall, was selected as this year's carnival princess. Eight-year-old Lauren Rattenberry, also of Wolverhampton Road, and five-year-old Grace Gower, of Autumn Drive, Pelsall, are rosebuds.

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Borough bucks trend as jobless figures rise

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Jobless queues are getting longer in Walsall despite recent national figures out showing a fall in unemployment to 2.4 million.

Most areas of the West Midlands show a rise in the number of those unemployed and claiming jobseeker's allowance.

While the total unemployment figure for the region dropped slightly, there was an increase in those looking for work and claiming the allowance in Walsall. Last month the claimant count rose by 247 to 10,412 – or 6.6 per cent of the borough's working population.

The figure is way above the national claimant rate of 4.6 per cent.

Sandwell also saw an increase, of 278, to 13,259 or 7.2 per cent, as did Wolverhampton where the figure was up 163 to 11,845, or 7.8 per cent of the city's working population.

Reflected

In Dudley, there was a rise of just nine to 9,731, or five per cent, but in Birmingham the count rose by 417 to 47,392, or 7.1 per cent.

The picture was reflected nationwide, with number of people on jobseeker's allowance rising by 12,400 last month to 1.47 million, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Economists had been expecting it to fall by as much as 10,000 but instead were faced with the biggest increase in 16 months.

But official unemployment fell 36,000 in the three months to March, down to 2.45 million. Across the West Midlands as a whole unemployment fell by 4,000 to 255,000.

Youth unemployment has also fallen slightly, with the rate among 16 to 24-year-olds at 935,000 or 20 per cent. The improved figures come just days after the Government unveiled a £60 million package aimed at boosting work prospects for the youth sector.

Employment Minister Chris Grayling said: "It's good news to see that unemployment is also going in the right direction and pleasing that unemployment has fallen for young people."

Even more notes for church choir

A church in Walsall which is the home to one of the West Midlands' best-known male voice choirs has even more notes to sing with after bagging £29,000.

Shelfield Methodist Church has had new doors, stained glass windows and a fresh lick of paint thanks to the cash boost.

The church is used by the renowned Shelfield Male Voice Choir, as well as scouts, brownies, craft groups and other clubs.

The grant was awarded by the Highfield South Trust, which manages cash raised through landfill and re-distributes it around the community.

Church secretary Glenda Waddison said: "It is a great amount of money and it is going to benefit a lot of people in the community. We have been able to do quite a lot of things with it."

New storage has been added at the church and the cellar has also been water-proofed as part of the work.

Last year, the church received another grant from the Highfield South Trust which was used to make sure the heating system could make it through the harsh winter months.

The church has stood on the site for around 104 years.



Looking at pictures of the church are, project manager John Punch, chair of the Trust Margaret Hayes, contractor Graham Wiggan and Rev Molly Chitokwindo

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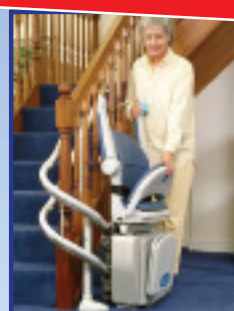
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thechronicle

Patrols to be stepped up at arboretum

Police patrols are to be stepped up in Walsall Arboretum following a spate of crimes including theft, arson and vandalism.

Yobs have set litter bins on fire in recent weeks and ripped out tree saplings planted by schoolchildren. A number of visitors have had their mobile phones stolen. Police will now be conducting high-visibility patrols in the park, and officers in plain clothes will also keep watch. Their patrols will be strengthened by rangers at the Arboretum.

West Midlands Police said they wanted to crack down on crime and anti-social behaviour so people could enjoy the 170-acre park.

The patrols will seize alcohol found in the park and target those responsible for graffiti and criminal damage.

Sgt Bob Harris said: "People come to enjoy the parkland, there is also a children's play area, football pitch and newly-built skate park."

"We need to ensure that their day isn't blighted by people's anti-social behaviour and crime."

"There have been a couple of incidents recently of mobile phone thefts in the park and some reports of anti-social behaviour. We want to make sure that anyone coming to enjoy the Arboretum this summer can do so safely."

"The Arboretum is a no-alcohol zone and anyone found drinking will have their alcohol confiscated."

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird welcomed the idea, saying it would bring peace of mind to visitors.

"We want people visiting Walsall Arboretum to feel safe and be able to enjoy themselves without their day being ruined by a small minority," Councillor Bird said. "These joint patrols will give reassurance to visitors that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated, and we are working closely with the police to stamp out any problems."

Office workers are in a flap over falcon pair



One of the peregrine falcons

A pair of peregrine falcons is proving an interesting sight for workers after they began nesting at the top of a prominent Walsall town centre building.

The wild birds have nested at the top of Walsall Council's bell tower and spend their days flying around the town's tallest buildings.

A favourite haunt is Tameway Tower, in Bridge Street, which is where this remarkable photograph was captured by an astonished office worker.

The plucky bird was so close, the office worker who took the picture has been able to capture it in great detail from its mottled black and cream feathers to the curve of its beak. The bird had perched on



Council staff, Helen Dodd and Ian Morton-Jones keep a look out for the falcons.

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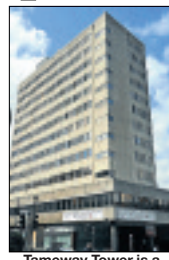
the window ledge of the 12th floor of the office block when a quick-thinking worker from the council's leisure and culture services took the picture on her phone.

Tinted windows mean while the worker could see the bird in all its glory, the feathered friend did not know it was being snapped.

Attention

The birds, which have been affectionately dubbed Katy and Matthew Perry, are attracting plenty of attention from workers and birdwatchers alike.

It is the second time a pair of birds have chosen to nest in the area. Feeding on pigeons and able to reach 200mph, the birds are usually found in seacliffs and



Tameway Tower is a stop off for the falcons.

higher ground in the UK.

Ian Morton-Jones, Walsall Council marketing officer, works in the tower.

He said: "I think it's brilliant that something like a peregrine falcon can live in the town centre. We're quite high up in Tameway Tower and you quite often hear it screeching as it circles overhead."

"You sometimes find parts of mice at the bottom of Tameway Tower that look as though they've been a falcon's dinner."

"I think the person who took the mobile phone image of one of the falcons got quite a shock to see it on their window ledge staring in." Walsall Council was even holding Peregrine watch last week where experts were in front of the town's Gala Baths, in Tower Street, armed with telescopes and binoculars.

Electronic signs point to car parks

Hi-tech electronic signs will direct drivers to parking spaces under plans to keep traffic moving around Walsall town centre.

At least six signs at busy spots will flash information to motorists pointing to the 1,494 spaces in the town centre.

The devices could also be introduced into other town centres such as Willenhall and Bloxwich. The signs have already proved effective in Wolverhampton. Paul Leighton, Walsall Council group leader for traffic management, said: "We are looking at installing a minimum of six parking information signs on key gateways into the town centre by early 2012. Discussions are taking place around the best location and it is too early to say exactly where they will be."

Councillor Tom Ansell, cabinet member for transport, added: "If the scheme is successful and more money comes through, I would like to see it rolled out to the district centres."

It is not yet known how much the scheme will cost. The town centre has 512 short-stay spaces, 906 long-stay, 39 disabled spaces and 37 for carers and children. The signs would be the latest change to parking in the town centre.

Service reminder

Bus users are reminded of a new service between Walsall town centre and the Manor Hospital on evenings and Sundays. The 335 bus providing connections between the hospital from Alumwell Estate, Bradford Place and Walsall bus station has been launched. It is being run by bus operator Diamond on a half-hourly basis and has been subsidised by Centro. It follows the £70 million redevelopment of the Manor.

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School could face planning action

A girls' school set up in terraced houses and mobile classrooms in Walsall could face enforcement action if its retrospective planning application is not successful.

The Abu Bakr Trust muslim school and mosque has been based in Wednesbury Road, Palfrey, for 10 years.

It has permission to operate the mosque and school from a row of terraced houses and four mobile units, but has now expanded to 12 mobile units.

The trust has now applied retrospectively for planning permission for all the buildings on the site to be retained and for a general change of use of the industrial site it occupies to a school.

But planning bosses at Walsall Council

have now warned if consent is not given enforcement action to scale back the unlawful part of the development will be taken.

Walsall planning chief David Elsworth, said: "A full consultation exercise is being undertaken and comments will be considered prior to reporting the application to the planning committee."

"The council has also resolved to serve an enforcement notice relating to this unauthorised development should determination of this application not provide a satisfactory outcome."

He added: "The application is for the retrospective change of use to a school and the retention of mobile classrooms, prayer

hall, recreation room and building lobbies with a shared car park for mosque and school."

"The application seeks to regularise the structures and uses currently on the site. It does not include the mosque or any of the terraced housing on Wednesbury Road." The school and sixth form has 310 pupils and has 39 members of staff.

An application to expand the mosque, which occupies seven of the 15 houses owned by the trust, was refused by councillors last year.

A planning application to expand the sixth form at the school submitted in December 2009 was also refused by officers under delegated powers.

Walk has target of £20,000

The annual Rosie's Walk and Festival, in honour of an Aldridge schoolgirl stabbed to death in Birmingham, will be held on July 17.

It is 10 years since 16-year-old Rosie Ross was killed by a paranoid schizophrenic as she sunbathed in Centenary Square with a friend. Her parents Karen and Sean Ross set up the charity, Rosie's Helping Hands, in 2001.

Mrs Ross said: "We want to make this a special year with the focus on people celebrating their friends and families with us."

"As it's a milestone we would like to raise £20,000 this year."

"Many of the causes Rosie's Helping Hands supports are local charities that provide facilities for young people," she added.

For the 10th anniversary, the charity is supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital. The walk is at Aldridge Airfield.

Park and stride schools scheme

Pupils from schools in Willenhall will be encouraging their parents to ditch the car and walk them to school.

The Short Heath Federation of Schools, made up of Lane Head Nursery, Rosedale Infants School and Short Heath Junior School, are taking part in a new project called Park and Stride.

Parents will be asked to park at selected sites further away from the schools and walk the rest of the way with their youngsters. The launch coincides with the start of Walk to School Week.

Co-ordinator Tracey Jephcott said: "The main idea is to clear some of the traffic congestion from outside our schools and make them a safer place to be at the start and end of each school day. Many local companies have agreed to let us use their car parks and we are very grateful for their support."

"The people we would like to thank are United Kingdom pub, Homestead Public House, The Brown Jug and Brackendale Shopping Complex in Stroud Avenue. The Park and Stride scheme launched last week."



Co-ordinator Tracey Jephcott, front left, with Megan Handley, Charlotte Cooper and Georgie Jephcott, take part in walk to school week at Short Heath Junior School

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Rugby club sets mind to building new base

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A Walsall rugby club that lost its clubhouse in an arson attack has vowed to get a new one built "by hook or by crook", and may even scale down the plans to get it under way after repeated delays.

Aldridge Rugby Club is in the process of hiring a fundraiser to help raise grants and donations for the new £320,000 clubhouse, after delays to the project left teams without changing rooms and showers for two seasons. Planning consent for a new building was granted in March.

Proposals include a bar and facilities for the club in Bourne Vale, and come after an application was submitted to Walsall Council in October.

Committee member Jim Chambers said the plans to rebuild could be altered and additions such as underfloor heating and quality materials removed to get the cost down if necessary.

He said: "It's a step forward that we are getting someone in to help solve the problem of funding."

Specification

"But if we still can't get enough money to build to our specification, we believe there are things we might be able to take out to get the price down."

"We are confident we are going to get there, by hook or by crook, it's just taking a long time. It's a lot of hard work, especially as it's all done in our spare time."

It was originally hoped that the building work would be completed before the start of the new season in September, but delays with the application and funding have pushed this back.

Committee members are now simply hoping to begin the work before September, allowing the possibility for it to be completed half way through the season.

Construction work is intended to take about 16 weeks, and the anticipated result is a 177sqm changing rooms, a club meeting room, a dining space, showers, toilets, and a bar.

An £80,000 loan from the Rugby Football Union is expected to help the project on its way.

Players played at other grounds last season after fire ripped through changing rooms and the bar area and destroyed kit and equipment worth more than £5,000 in July 2009.

Billy's first collection success

A Walsall ex-soldier who was shot while on patrol raised more than £5,000 for the Royal British Legion in his first collection.

Billy Reeves, aged 50, collected it in 49 hours by selling poppies and pin badges in Sainsbury's store on the Beechdale Estate.

The grandfather-of-three of Willenhall joined the Army at 16 and was a gunner in the Royal Artillery.

He was discharged after being shot in the shoulder by a sniper in Belfast in the 1980s.

The former Frank F Harrison Community School pupil thanked all who helped him raise £5,262.84 and is encouraging younger veterans to follow his example.

Mr Reeves, who collected over a week, took more than £240 in one collection.

"I was surprised I managed to raise that amount in 49 hours. I didn't know until the final count how much I had raised because the collection tins were taken from me every day."

"It's a sad fact that the old veterans that collect for the Royal British Legion, are getting fewer and fewer and it's important for the younger ones to do their bit," he said.



Billy Reeves, aged 50, raised more than £5,000 for the Royal British Legion

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£2.2m price on derelict listed hall

A derelict listed hall on the Walsall-Sandwell border has been put up for sale with a £2.2 million price tag.

Talks are under way between Walsall Council and national lottery chiefs to see what can be done to attract a new owner for Grade II-listed Great Barr Hall.

Campaigners have fought for years for the crumbling house – which dates back to the 18th century and was once owned by the Scott family – along with 50 acres of parkland to be preserved and the land kept free of development.

Walsall Council's regeneration boss Councillor Adrian Andrew said he has initiated discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund over the future of the site

which has suffered arson attacks and vandalism.

"I am in the process of organising a meeting with the fund along with representatives of Beacon Action Group," he said. "This is an opportunity to get the property back into friendly hands."

"The council can't go down the road of using taxpayers' money to buy it in the present financial climate, but there are other things it can do to assist."

"I would query the £2.2m asking price because it's a derelict building and has been for some time. It's really the garden and the lake which you would be paying for."

The building, which dates back to 1777,

the gardens and landscapes have been placed on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk.

It has been in the ownership of current owners Manor Building Preservation Trust for the eight years. The sale is being handled by estate agent Van Weenen. Plans to restore the hall, off Chapel Lane, to its former glory have not materialised. The trust drew up plans for a large two-storey house overlooking the upper lake, and a bungalow, and 10ft high gates and railings at four entrances to the site.

Secretary of Beacon Action Group Bob Winkle said: "The hall being up for sale really is too good an opportunity to turn down."

Hannah cooks up funding

A fundraiser who is running a marathon in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice has taken to baking cakes and selling books to help achieve her £1,000 target.

Local newspaper reporter Hannah Webster, aged 25, from Birmingham, is running the New York Marathon with the help of the sports holiday company Sports Tours International.

Having just started training for the event in November, she has kick-started her fundraising with the launch of a website advertising cakes and books.

She said: "I'm really lucky that Sports Tours is helping with my costs, freeing me up to raise as much money for the hospice as possible."

Anyone who want to sponsor Hannah, can visit www.hannahisrunning.webeden.co.uk

For more information log on to www.sportstoursinternational.co.uk

Artists' work on display in exhibition

An exhibition of artwork from Walsall amateur artists has gone on display. The Society of Darlaston Amateur Artists is now open and runs until June 11.

Watercolours, acrylics and pastels are among the items on show at Darlaston Library, King Street.

Society spokeswoman Mrs Jean Gurney who lives in Sandwell Avenue, Darlaston, said: "We have 80 paintings in the exhibition and they are all by local artists from within the area, and also areas such as Wombourne and Bilston."

"They are all amateur artists and the talent of a lot of the artists is quite high. It is amazing how ordinary people just stay at home painting for their own pleasure but the work they turn out is very good."

Mrs Gurney added: "There are all sorts of works, a number of buildings, landscapes, seascapes, animals, portraits and still life."

Visitors will be asked to fill out a voting slip for their favourite work and at the end of the exhibition the winner will be presented with a crystal goblet for the artist who receives the most votes.



Darlaston society artist Graham Johnson with some of the work on display

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Sights set on the stars

**LOCAL
HERITAGE**


STUART WILLIAMS of Walsall Local History Centre, the archives service and local studies library is looking at some of the remarkable and inspirational people who are associated with your borough.

Some in life rise high, reach for the stars, and are remembered forever. Others may be cut down in their prime, and be forgotten, even in the place of their birth; yet their story may be no less fascinating. One such is Mr W E Hartley.

William Ernest Hartley was born in Walsall, then in Staffordshire, in 1877 and was educated at King Edward's High School, New Street, Birmingham.

He subsequently went to Trinity College, University of Cambridge, on a scholarship, and studied mathematics, with considerable success, graduating in 1899 as sixth Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos.

He then moved to the University of Aberdeen, an ancient Scottish university whose first chair in mathematics was created in 1505. For several years he held the post of Demonstrator in Physics there.

In 1903, he became a professional astronomer, being appointed Junior Assistant Observer at the Cambridge University Observatory. In 1913, the Senior (Chief) Assistant Mr Arthur R Hinks resigned from the observatory after being passed over for the directorship in favour of the younger Arthur Eddington, a brilliant mathematician and one of the earliest astrophysicists. Hinks left to take a secretaryship in the Royal Geographical Society, and Mr Hartley succeeded him.

Observations

Hartley was placed in charge of the observatory's meridian circle telescope, and was given the task of re-observing the faint supernumerary stars of the Cambridge Zone Star Catalogue, as well as preparing the detailed observations for press - a work completed shortly before his death.

This painstaking work, in those days before automation or computers, left him little time for original work. But he did much in determining the systematic motions of stars from their radial velocities, and in May, 1915, he published, jointly with the then Director of the Cambridge Observatory, Plumian Professor Arthur S. Eddington, a paper on the subject in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Vol. 75.

He was also very successful as a teacher of practical astronomy to university students at the Observatory. Mr Hartley's great gifts of lucid explanation, combined with his skill in the manipulation of astronomical instruments, made him eminently popular and successful in



Cotton War Memorial, picture by Mark Hurn, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge.

the weekly Saturday night demonstrations with the "Northumberland Equatorial". That same historic telescope is still at the observatory, now part of the Institute of Astronomy.

Hartley was also of great assistance to the Director of the observatory who preceded Eddington, Sir Robert Stawell Ball, a prolific author and lecturer who visited Walsall many times and who has become known as "the Victorian Patrick Moore". Hartley helped him with his professional publications.

In 1909, William Ernest Hartley married Norah Winifred Aldis of 151, Yardley Fields Road, Yardley, Birmingham, fifth daughter of Mr James A Aldis, then of Minsmere, Suffolk, and formerly headmaster of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall.

Baptism

At that time, there was no accommodation for them at the observatory, so they chose to live in the village of Cotton, near Cambridge, where the baptism of their two daughters took place at St Peter's Church (Anne, born 10 May 1912, baptised 9 June, and Catherine Aldis, born 26 February 1915, baptised 26 May).

When Hartley became Chief Assistant in 1913, he moved his family to the house at the west end of the observatory. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on 9 January, 1914.

Towards the close of 1915 he decided, after much discussion of the dangers with his wife, to serve his country during the Great War, and on 4 January, 1916 he became a naval instructor.

At that time the Navy did not give naval ranks to



The Northumberland Equatorial Telescope, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge. Picture by Stuart Williams.



HMS Vanguard, about 1910.

instructors. They were simply known as Headmasters if they had a University degree. Hartley's first posting was at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. He still paid regular weekend visits to Cambridge and helped to carry on the work in the Observatory.

In May 1916 he was appointed to HMS Africa, and in December was transferred to the ill-fated HMS Vanguard, upon which ship he was sadly killed on 9 July, 1917, with 803 other men, when it sank at Scapa Flow due to an accidental explosion in a magazine. In a letter of condolence to Hartley's widow, Admiral Sturdee spoke highly of his excellence as an instructor, and of the high quality of his work.

Churchyard

Hartley's name is recorded on the War Memorial in Cotton churchyard, and on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. In his obituary in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Vol. 78, (1918), his brother-in-law Mr H L Aldis, said "He will long be remembered by his friends and his professional colleagues, both in the Observatory and in the Navy, as a keen and devoted worker, a genial comrade, and a man of singularly unselfish kindness. That a career of such promise should have been so abruptly broken off is one of the tragedies of war."

That he should have been forgotten in his place of birth, Walsall, is also a tragedy, and it is now my privilege to put that right through the pages of the Walsall Chronicle.

For local and family history, drop into Walsall Local History Centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Call 01922 721305. For more information see www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre

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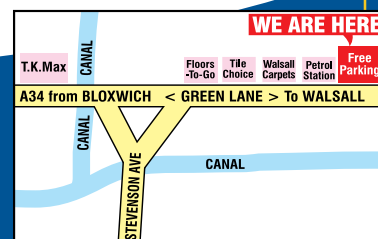
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Wrangle over council leadership goes on

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Political leaders in Walsall have reacted to the Tory bid to run the local authority as a minority administration.

Leader of the Liberal Democrats Ian Shires said he thought the decision would make it harder for opposition to influence council decisions.

Meanwhile, Labour boss Tim Oliver said his party would continue to fight to become the majority party in the future after making significant gains in the local elections.

Conservative leader Mike Bird laid out a proposal which would see his group take control despite holding no overall majority.

It follows almost a fortnight of crunch talks between all three leaders.

Under the proposals, the council's seven scrutiny panels, most of which were previously chaired by Tory members, would be divided proportionally between the three main groups.

Senior

The plan also sees Labour councillor Graham Wilkes become the deputy mayor and the mayoralty eventually return to the most senior member of the council.

Councillor Oliver, whose party is not expected to oppose the proposal at next Monday's full council meeting, said they had battled hard for some of the points.

He said: "We argued strongly that the position of mayor should be based on seniority, which did use to be the case."

"The seven scrutiny panels would be divided up based on proportionality."

Councillor Shires had been in talks with both parties to outline his group's concerns and requests.

These included scrutiny panels being chaired by opposition parties in all cases and a greater say for councillors and communities in how money is spent in their area.

Students in the frame at museum



Paul Riley and Tina Jassal show off their artwork

Creative arts students from Walsall College are showing their artwork at the town's Leather Museum.

Colourful pieces ranging from textiles and paintings to computer-generated art will be on show until June 24.

The Made in Walsall exhibition, put

together by the college's supported learning students, gives learners a chance to share their hard work with others.

The exhibition has been running for more than 10 years. Walsall Leather Museum is in Littleton Street West and is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.



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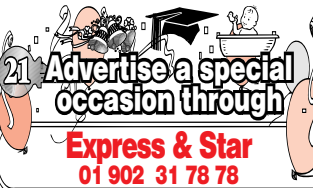
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thechronicle

Pupils' pain is hospice's gain



Organiser Thomas Hickman, aged 14, with, left, Kerry Greenaway and Emily Hale – both from Focus on Beauty

Teenagers had a hair raising experience to raise cash for a charity helping a friend diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Mitchell Fox, aged 13, has been supported by Acorn's Hospice at Home project for about two years.

Friends at The Crestwood School, Kingswinford, organised charity events to raise cash and 14 teen boys had their legs waxed as school pals paid to see them do it.

The recent event was one of four raising cash, to be split with Midlands Air Ambulance.

Another is an endurance challenge with pupils tackling a collective 100 miles walking, running, rowing, swimming and cycling. Deputy head Tony Bowles does a sky dive on June 11. Thomas Hickman, aged 16, said: "We decided to pick Acorns because of the help they had given to Mitchell."

He organised the waxing with beauticians at Focus on Beauty, Barnett Lane, Kingswinford.

Mitchell's parents, Neil and Elaine Fox, said it would be difficult to cope if it was not for the help and support which carers have provided.

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thechronicle

Householders planning changes

Planning applications recently submitted to Walsall Council include:

Rebuild of rear first floor extension to create kitchen and staircase to first floor flat at 70 Ablewell Street – now known as 72 Ablewell Street, St Matthews, Walsall.

First floor side extension at 3 Beacon Rise, Aldridge.

Retrospective change of use to school and retention of mobile classrooms, prayer hall/recreation room and building lobbies with shared car park for mosque and school at 138-166 Wednesbury Road, Palfrey, Walsall.

Single storey and two storey side extensions at 29 Fullelove Road, Brownhills.

Two storey rear extension at 1 Vigo Terrace, Walsall Wood.

Siting of a mobile catering unit on the car park at The White Horse, Green Lane, Birchills.

Erection of 12 one-bedroom apartments at the former Coalpool Clinic, Ross Road, Coalpool.

Retrospective – store and bin enclosure at the rear and front of Heath Service Station at Heath Service Station, 141 Lichfield Road, Shelfield.

Display of internally-illuminated fascia and projecting signs at 8 Bradford Street, Walsall town centre.

Single storey front extension, including pitched roof above existing store at 23

Ridgeway, Aldridge. Part two storey, part single storey rear extension at 72 Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall.

Single storey front extension at 16 Churchside Way, Aldridge.

Proposed single storey side/rear extension 29 Chapel Street, Pelsall.

Construction of a new parts storage facility at Hartsome Motor Services Limited, Bentley Mill Close, Bentley.

Retrospective application: Porch, driveway and 175cm boundary fence to frontage at 29 Church Street, Brownhills.

Two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and alterations to front porch at 274 Aldridge Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Invitation to get the bikes out

Residents in Walsall and Lichfield are invited to get on their bikes for fun and exercise.

The Walsall Cyclist Touring club leads a road ride every Wednesday at 10am from the bus stop outside St Peter's School, Stonnall.

Every Friday cyclists meet for coffee at The Dog, Main Street, Whittington, Staffordshire at 11 am.

The ride leader is John Burns and anyone who wants more information can call 01922 452502 or visit www.chasecycling.co.uk/ctcwalsall.htm.

Store tries something different for hospice

Sainsbury's in Reedswood Way, Walsall, has handed over more than £1,000 to St Giles Walsall Hospice at the new £5.5 million facility in Goscote.

Staff at the store raised a total of £1,152 by holding a pirate-themed day at the supermarket with face-painting and fancy dress and collections.

Staff met up with fundraisers for the hospice at the newly finished site in Goscote Lane last week to hand over the cheque.

Spokesman for the supermarket branch Liam Bagnall said: "It's been really good seeing the finished result of the hospice, it's really impressive."

Walking for charity

People are being asked to put on their walking shoes and raise funds for Diabetes UK.

An event called Walk the Extra Mile will take place at Walsall Arboretum on June 12.

People can choose to walk either a three or five-mile route. The three-mile route is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Registration on the day will start from 10am and the walk starts at 11am. A warm-up will start at 10.50am with staff from The Village Hotel, Walsall.

For information, call 01922 614500.



St Giles Walsall Hospice community fundraiser Sharon White with Sainsbury's assistant Barbara King

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customers up to £250 off the cost of the installation. I don't believe anyone else is currently offering free fitting so I believe that has been key to our success over the last few months." Staff will also visit each home to ensure the correct specification of fireplace is fitted. "The choice of fires and fireplaces is a very personal one, so with us visiting each customers home personally we can offer advice as to which ones would look the best." "We are looking to celebrate our 3rd year of trading by offering our customers a one off amazing offer" "We are already offering **FREE FITTING** and for this Whitsun Bank Holiday Weekend Only purchase a suite from us and not only will we fit it **FREE** of charge, we will give you **25% DISCOUNT** off any of our Gas or Electric fire range."

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Get summer sizzling with the new Bodum Frykat Barbecues. These portable grill pots come in three colours - bright orange, pale green and black - and each compact, enamel-coated BBQ features a clip-on lid and heat resistant handle. They're great for picnics, patios and garden parties. £35.99.

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Enjoy beautiful hyacinths indoors without mess with this pack of three hyacinth glasses. Buy your own bulbs and then see them grow supported just above the water, forcing the roots so these attractive plants can be enjoyed earlier than if planted outside. £14.99.

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Please note: the "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Travel back in time to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday

BLISTS Hill Victorian town in Shropshire will be celebrating the birthday of Queen Victoria with pomp and pageantry over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend.

A highlight over the weekend of May 28 to 30 will be the daily concert in Her Majesty's honour starting at 2pm including bagpipe players and drummers from the Seaforth Highlanders band in full Scottish costume. There will also be a performance by the Wellington (Telford) Brass Band (Saturday and Sunday only).

There will be mime performances from the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company, while the Prince Albert Players will perform scenes from a variety of plays.

Penny Farthing

Children can watch a traditional Punch and Judy Show or search for lost toys hidden around the town, with a lolly reward for those who complete the trail.

There will also be a variety of hands-on activities in the Goods Shed where youngsters can have-a-go at games and creative skills from a bygone era.

Vintage bicycles, including the famous Penny Farthing will be ridden around the town and visitors to the New Inn can join in a sing-a-long.

As festivities take place to mark the monarch's 81st birthday, the town being locked into 1900, townsfolk will still be going about their daily lives in the houses and shops – baking bread, counting coins at the bank and serving Victorian remedies in the chemist. Craftsman will be at work in the Artisans' Yard.

A heat of the Shropshire Olympian Festival will be held at Blists Hill on Saturday, May 28, at 2pm. Teams will be dressed in Victorian costume and compete in a range of rustic sports including Tossing the Bale, Catching the Pig, the Eight-legged Race and Juggling. No animal will be stressed in Catch the Pig but there will be an ingenious slippery pig. The Eight-legged Race involves four runners strapped to a plank of wood, while Juggling is like Blind Man's Buff in reverse – a blind folded team tries to catch 'the Jangler', covered from head-to-foot in bells!

Blists Hill is one of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. Other activities at the museums include: Discover the power of water and how its energy

Lots to do this Whitsun holiday at Ironbridge Gorge Museums



The Blists Hill townsfolk will help visitors step back into the Victorian era

can be harnessed at the Ingenuity technology centre during spring half-term week. From Saturday, May 28, to Sunday, June 5, Wicked Water will help unravel the mystery of how water can power machinery. Make your own dragon boats from craft materials and race them on the pool of doom

(small extra charge to cover materials), and watch a monster water rocket demonstration.

A passport to all ten gorge museums valid for twelve months and multiple return visits, costs £22.50 per adult, £18.25 for those 60 plus, £14.75 for students and children and £61.50 for a family of

two adults and three children aged up to 18 in full time education; under 5s free. Individual museum entry tickets are available.

The museums are open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm. For further information, contact 01952 433 424 or visit the website www.ironbridge.org.uk.

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Charity aims to create faith school in town

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

An education charity that runs projects to improve the prospects of children from disadvantaged communities wants to create a faith school in Walsall.

The planned Excell3 International School would be a secondary school specialising in business and languages.

Those behind the proposal said the free, mixed-sex school would be non-selective with a Christian ethos and open to all pupils irrespective of religion.

Excell3's national development manager Stephen Brooks said plans for the school had been in the pipeline for three years.

"If we are going to be successful for opening in 2012 we have to complete all of our ground work by the end of this month and accelerate the process," he said.

Regeneration

"We have been looking at Walsall and the surrounding towns for some time as it is one of the most under-achieving areas in the Black Country educationally, although the borough is experiencing regeneration."

Bosses at the charity, which has offices in Great Barr, said discussions were under way with community and faith groups and families, over the idea for the school which would be funded by central government.

The proposal is for a school to serve the west of the borough where there are fewer secondaries and a higher incidence of deprivation, compared to the east.

It costs about £23 million to build a new school, but Mr Brooks said an existing building would be acquired meaning reduced set-up costs.

Excell3, an approved academy sponsor, Walsall would be its first school.

The former Darlaston Community Science College has become a Grace Academy which has a Christian ethos. Other state-funded faith senior schools include Blue Coat Church of England, Birmingham Street, and St Thomas More Catholic, in Darlaston Lane.

Interim managing director for Walsall Children's Services Sero Graham Talbot said a meeting had been arranged with Excell3 to find out more about their proposals.

Cannabis plants stash found

This was the scene in a house in Walsall after police officers found a haul of cannabis plants hidden behind a fake wall and door.

The wall had been built in a terraced house in Park Street, Darlaston, to hide the illegal growing operation.

The door to the cubby hole was blocked by a cupboard but police officers uncovered the whole scheme on May 19 after tip-offs from concerned neighbours.

Inside the secret room were 10 mature cannabis plants ready for cultivation and specialist growing equipment.

One man aged in his 50s was arrested on suspicion of the cultivation of cannabis and was in police custody.

Neighbours contacted the police after the strong smell of cannabis filled the air in the street. The raid happened at 7.40am.

The secret room had been insulated and also contained a heater for optimum growing conditions.

Officers have now bagged up the drugs and taken them into custody ready for destruction.

Centre sale

A table top sale will be held at St Peter's Parish Centre Harrison Street, Bloxwich, on July 4. The sale will be between 11.30am and 2.30pm, and costs £5 per table.



Pc Keith Humphries, with cannabis found in a raid in Park Street.



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thechronicle

Students star in dance show



Cast - Back from left, Lauren Kent, Emily Saunders, Nicole Hall, Martha Mroczek, Siobhan Huston, Danielle Paintain, and front, Chantelle Beacham

Songs by music heroes past and present were played as students took to the stage to dance in an annual show. A group of 25 students from Frank F Harrison Engineering College danced to the songs of artists such as Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Lady Gaga in the Legends of Music production.

The group, called the Developpe Dancers, performed to an audience of more than 150 people at the school in Leamore Lane, Bloxwich on May 18. The youngsters spent three months preparing for the show and learned routines in different dance genres

such as jazz, street and ballet. They opened their show with a routine to Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance With Somebody and performed their finale to Elvis Presley's Jailhouse Rock.

Dance teacher and choreographer, Samantha Steatham said: "I'm really proud of them. They have been so excited. They had costumes for the show which included convict outfits, police uniforms and tutus."

"We have raised about £1,000 for the dance department through ticket sales which will allow us to buy more costumes."

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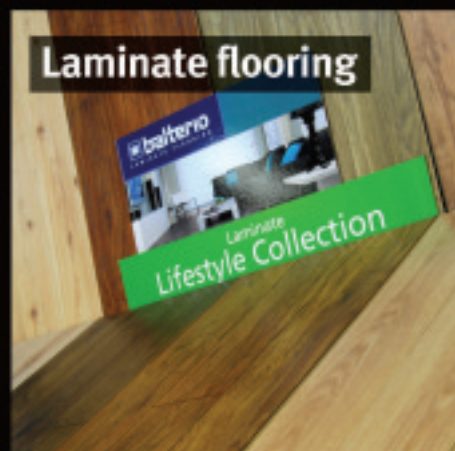
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Report on hospital meals

The vast differences in spending on patients' food in hospitals in the West Midlands region claim new figures show.

Spending at some hospitals in the region was more than £9 per meal in 2009-10 while others dipped under £5.

Top spender was Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust which shelled out £9.36 per meal but Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust allocated £4.78 per meal. Second highest was the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, spending £8.40

per meal. The figures, released by the NHS Information Centre, showed Walsall Manor Hospital paid out £6.54 per patient.

Sue Hartley, director of nursing and governance at Walsall Manor Hospital, said: "We ensure that our hospital menu contains a variety of options for patients to encourage them to eat a well-balanced and varied diet and we also cater for all cultural and dietary requirements."

"Food plays an essential role in the recovery process of a patient, and therefore it's important we

continue to offer this level of service to our patients, as getting the right nutrition is essential for the future well-being and recovery of any patients in our care."

All the hospitals have increased funding for meals since 2007-08 when the least spent was £3.16 per meal, by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust.

Chief nurse at the trust Rachel Overfield said: "We take the nutrition of our patients seriously and have invested money over the last few years, including overhauling menus."

Church open day has a certain a-peal

The sound of bells ringing filled the air in Walsall as an open day was held at the Parish Church of St Matthew's.

During the day visitors enjoyed guided tours, which took in the church's 12th century crypt, crafts and music, while there was also a full peal of bells – which saw a continuous ringing for more than three hours – by a band of ringers from all over the Midlands.

A newly revised guide and history of the Jesson Road church, which has been written, illustrated and updated by local historian David Vadden was also launched.

The church, which is almost 800 years old can reference how Henry VIII, Oliver Cromwell, the Industrial Revolution and even the Charge of the Light Brigade impacted on the community.

Reverend Colin Gibson, rector of St Matthew's, said: "It was a very successful enjoyable day and we hope it has helped build up our relationship more with the community."

"The peal of bells was absolutely fantastic, some of the people came in because they had heard it and just wanted to see what was going on."



Reverend Colin Gibson taking a look at the 12th century crypt at St Matthew's.

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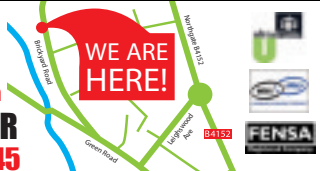
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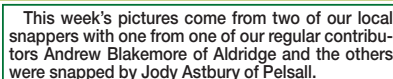
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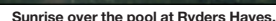


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Ducklings on the bank of the canal at Clayhanger.



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New chief aiming to give the best care in country

Fleet aiming to tackle the hole problem

Potholes on Walsall's weather-ravaged roads will be tackled more swiftly thanks to a new fleet of vehicles.

More than £440,000 has been spent on five new vehicles which can also double up as gritters in ice and snow.

The fleet has been adopted following trials by Walsall Council and partners Tarmac, which showed the trucks helped save time and money.

Councillor Mike Bird, Walsall Council leader, said: "We've had some really severe winters of late."

"Once the snow melts we are faced with the major headache of potholes on our roads."

"In the old days, we'd make a temporary repair and then go back and fix it permanently. Thanks to the pioneering trials we did last year we put permanent repairs in from the start."

One of the vehicles will be used to clean out gulleys and drains and jet clean blocked pipes.

National Theatre dream



Theo Johnson, aged 17, front left, and Matthew Socci, 18, with fellow students.

Students from Walsall College are competing for the opportunity to perform in a play at the National Theatre in London.

The National Theatre is commissioning 10 plays and selecting youth groups from across the UK to perform them.

The competition has involved the Walsall students learning and per-

forming a play called Gap, by Alia Bano. To be considered, students had to perform for judges, create a filmed version of the play and give an additional performance at the Warwick Arts Centre.

Students are now waiting to hear if they have been selected to be in the final 10, who will go on to perform in the national final in June.

The new chief executive of Walsall Manor Hospital has spoken of plans to forge stronger links with community health services and to provide the best care in the country.

Richard Kirby, aged 37, of Bournville, Birmingham, took up the role last Monday after leaving his position as chief operating officer at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

He said he wanted to integrate community health and hospital services, and give staff more author-

walsallchronicle@
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ity on decisions over patient care. Making the hospital an NHS foundation trust by April 2013 is a top priority for the father-of-two, who has also worked for NHS chief executive David Nicholson during his 15-year career.

Governors

NHS foundation trusts are part of the Government's plans to create a patient-led NHS.

They allow people, patients and staff to become members and governors and hold the trust to account. About 4,000 people have volunteered to sign up when the Walsall

hospital gains this status.

Mr Kirby said: "There's some really exciting opportunities for the health service in Walsall. There's a real sense to develop strong links with the local authority, social services and other voluntary sectors in the area." He added: "We want to make sure all our staff are focused on the patients so we provide first class care. I am really keen to become the best trust in the country."

The health service is facing a period where resources will be much tighter. We have to get used to getting the best out of everything we spend money on. It comes down to getting things right first time.

Mr Kirby has replaced the interim chief executive Michael Scott.

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Rugby bosses plan new ground

Bosses at Walsall Rugby Club are planning to apply for permission to build a new multi-million pound ground at Aldridge Airport.

Preliminary discussions have taken place between officials at the Delves Road-based club and Walsall Council about possible sites where the club could move to in order to upgrade its facilities.

Walsall Rugby Club president Chris Emes said talks had progressed and a developer was expected to be chosen within the next month.

They then intend to submit a planning application to build on the land off Bosty Lane.

He said the 21 acre site would allow the club, which has more than 500 members, to build a modern clubhouse with four pitches and an all weather pitch.

The existing ground is currently outdated and a move will enable the club to develop. It would mean a switch of just a few miles.

Mr Emes would not say exactly how much the scheme was likely to cost but revealed it would be several mil-

lions. He said: "Preliminary discussions with the council have progressed and they have told us to apply for planning permission at Aldridge Airport."

"We are in discussions with two developers and hope to chose one within a month. We are hoping to get a planning application in soon and hopefully it will be passed within 12 months."

"The developers are also looking to apply for planning permission for a new road, car park and residential development at Delves Road."

"We can't survive with the current facilities we have. They are not up to the current specifications of the Rugby Football Union."

"We don't have enough space for everyone to train. This will give us two extra pitches."

David Elsworth, Walsall Council's head of planning and building control, said officers had met with Walsall Rugby Club on several occasions.

He added: "Discussions are ongoing with potential partners and the council is supporting them."

Hospice looking for more staff

A children's hospice in Walsall is on the look out for new staff. Forns Children's Hospice is after full and part-time workers to fill four positions.

The Walstead Road hospice is after care assistants and a sibling support worker.

The care assistants, two of which are full-time and one part-time, can

expect to earn up to £15,500 and the part-time sibling support worker around £20,000.

The deadline for applications is June 3. For more information on the jobs, call Christine Christie on 01564 825016.

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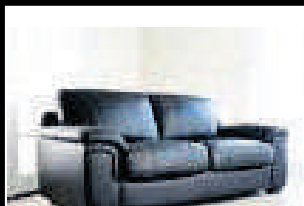
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the pulse

Stacey's rise from chip shop to celeb status

CELEBRITY mum Stacey Solomon says she sees more of her son Zachary now she is a TV presenter than when she did 12-hour shifts at a fish and chips shop. The girl from Dagenham with the engaging giggly personality and powerful singing voice came third on Simon Cowell's X Factor nearly two years ago and followed that up with I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, where she won the public's vote as 'Queen of the Jungle'. Now she co-presents Saturday night charity comedy show Sing If You Can on ITV.

The giggling girl from Dagenham talks to **LEON BURAKOWSKI** about her amazing past two years and her proudest achievement

Stacey spoke to The Chronicle in Birmingham during a whistle-stop tour of the UK to promote her autobiography My Story So Far. "The last two years have been amazing," said the Essex girl in her familiar breathless manner. "I've been very lucky and I am so grateful to people."

She confessed that she still feels out-of-place rubbing shoulders with celebs and was often nervous when she met famous people –

"I am, like, is this really happening? I feel like that all the time."

Her most nerve-wracking moment came earlier this month when she trod onto the hallowed turf of Wembley Stadium to sing God Save The Queen in front of 88,000 football fans at the FA Cup Final between Manchester City and Stoke City.

"That was really scary," said Stacey, "but it seemed to go down well. It could only have been better if my team, Arsenal, had been playing."

Asked what her proudest achievement so far had been, there was no hesitation. "My son."

But how had she found it being an in-demand celebrity and a mum. "It's the same as it is for all working mums, juggling work and home. I get home to see him every night and if I don't it's only because I really, really can't avoid it. I see more of him now than when I worked 9 to 9 at the chip shop."

Stacey won a bingo company's Mum of the Year title this year. She has also started appearing in TV adverts for a famous frozen food company.

The 21-year-old has left Dagenham but still lives in Essex and within 10 minutes of her old home.

So, what's next? "I've got another couple of Saturday nights on Sing If You Can and I am finishing the book tour, then I am heading into the studio to make my album."

Singing is what first got Stacey noticed, especially her versions of What A Wonderful World and Who Wants To Live Forever on The X Factor. One gets the sense that she's relishing a return to music.

"The album is going to be chilled, late lounge, cool and young," she said with enthusiasm, adding that she hoped a tour would follow.

She had books to sign and parted with a polite 'thank you'... and a giggle.



Stacey Solomon – I'm so grateful to people



TV listings start – page 32

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up – page 31



Reviews – page 36

Duck Sauce almost had Diamond flavour

TOP club DJ and dance music hit-maker Armand Van Helden, who is coming to Birmingham this weekend, has revealed that his Duck Sauce hit Barbra Streisand was almost called Neil Diamond.

Van Helden teams up with Chicago DJ Sneak and French house pioneer Sebastian Leger in a Bank Holiday bonus bill at Gatecrasher on Broad Street on Sunday (May 29).

The American DJ, remixer and producer for such as The Rolling Stones, Janet Jackson and Puff Daddy, is also the man behind Dizzee Rascal's chart-topper Bonkers and,

with DJ A-Trak under the name Duck Sauce, super-catchy 2010 hit Barbra Streisand.

Van Helden reveals that the tune was almost named in honour of a different middle-of-the-road pop icon.

"Neil Diamond was a contender but just didn't sound as good as Barbra Streisand," said the superstar DJ.

"A-Trak and I have a brainstorm or maybe a brain-quirk."

"He spits out ideas and I spit out ideas, we throw them up against the wall and see what works. We usually end up laughing, that's kinda how it worked

for Barbra Streisand. We both have wacky senses of humour. I thought we gotta say someone's name, someone in music who has nothing to do with this."

"After three or four shots we tried Barbra Streisand and both just started cracking up, so we knew then that would have to be on the track."

"We didn't expect the track to be a success. I mean, it was like comedy, so who knew that it'd be a success. I really never could have predicted that."

But he can predict plenty of action on a packed dancefloor at Gatecrasher Birmingham this Sunday. Tickets cost £20.

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A portrait of pitmen as they became painters

In 1934 a group of Northumberland miners hired a professor to teach an art appreciation evening class.

Abandoning theory in favour of practice, the pitmen began to paint.

Within a few years famous avant-garde artists became their friends and the work of the Ashington pitmen was acquired for prestigious collections. But they continued to work, as before, down the mine.

The Pitmen Painters, a play by Billy Elliot writer Lee Hall, examines the lives of ordinary men who do extraordinary things and looks at art, class and politics. The play has been a success at the National Theatre and on Broadway, and now comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of a UK tour.

The cast features several of the actors who starred in the London and New York productions – Christopher Connel, Deka Walmsley, David Whitaker, Brian Lonsdale and Trevor Fox – who are joined by new cast members David Leonard, Caroline Faber and Viktoria Kay.

Reunited

The Pitmen Painters opens at the Grand on Tuesday and runs until Saturday, June 4. Meanwhile, The All New Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers is staged at the Grand tonight (Thursday), twice tomorrow and twice on Saturday.

Yes, Prime Minister, a new play by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, the reunited writers of the classic comedy TV series, updates the world of PM Jim Hacker and Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby to the age of Blackberries, spin and dodgy dossiers.

Richard McCabe is the hapless occupier of 10 Downing Street, hanging on to power by his fingernails in a coalition Government with the economy in ruins. Simon Williams is the smooth and cunning Sir Humphrey and a sure bet for some witty one-liners at the expense of the political class. The show was a hit in the West End and is at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday.

Sexy Latin dance moves will be seen at the Hippodrome tonight (Thursday), tomorrow and Saturday when Strictly Come Dancing duo



The professor and the pitmen... the cast of The Pitmen Painters, from left: David Leonard, Trevor Fox, Michael Hodgson, Deka Walmsley and David Whitaker

Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace perform Mid-night Tango.

Another tribute to the Blues Brothers – the not so modestly entitled Jake & Elwood: The Best Blues Brothers Show In The World Ever! – is on at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre for one night tomorrow (Friday). Stars of the bhangra music scene will be at the city centre theatre on Saturday night – the line up includes Malkit Singh and Apna Sangeet – and Bollywood star Paresh Rawal will be at the New Alex on Monday for new Hindi comedy play Kishan Vs Kanhaiya. Then The Wiggles will be entertaining children next Thursday (June 2).

Lichfield playwright Phil Preece's hair salon comedy World Of Pain is staged by Nobody's Perfect at Wolverhampton Arena Theatre on Saturday. The Crescent Theatre company present Stephen Sondheim's bloody musical Sweeney Todd at their theatre just off Brindley Place from

Saturday to Saturday, June 4. Birmingham School of Acting present After Mrs Rochester, which explores the hard life of author Jean Rhys, who wrote the acclaimed Wide Sargasso Sea, a prequel to Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre. It is staged at The Old Rep, in Station Street, Birmingham, tonight, tomorrow and Saturday, including matinees.

Canadian comedian Charles Ross presents his One Man Star Wars Trilogy, condensing a galaxy worth of lightsabre battles and Jedi history into around an hour of stand-up comedy, at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday night.

Gothic horror musical Jekyll & Hyde, starring Marti Pellow, concludes its run at the Regent Theatre in the Potteries on Saturday night.

Rupert Gould's glitzy The Merchant of Venice, joins Macbeth, The City Madam and Cardenio in repertoire at the Royal Shakespeare Company theatres in Stratford.

A Piercing sound that is just pure harmony

A TRIPLE bill of three acts tipped for big things comes to Birmingham next month. Top of the bill at the HMV Institute's Library room on Sunday, June 12, are singing sisters The Pierces who hail from Birmingham, the one in Alabama.

Their last single You'll Be Mine was a gorgeous slice of harmonious Californian pop but their latest, Glorious, is even better, a summer anthem that lives up to its title. Allison and Catherine Pierce will be playing these and other tracks from the album, You & I, which is released next week.

Support comes from Liverpool's Delta Maid, a contemporary country singer who has won fans with her debut album Outside Looking In, and the gritty-voiced Alice Gold with retro flavoured pop such as recent single Runaway Love, from forthcoming debut album Seven Rainbows.

Tickets cost £10.

Lou to take a walk on the wild side with city gig

One of the true legends of rock music, Lou Reed, is coming to Wolverhampton Civic Hall this summer.

The former leader of The Velvet Underground, who wrote Perfect Day and Walk On The Wild Side, and set a template for New York bands still followed by such as The Strokes, will be in concert with his band at the city venue on Friday, July 1.

Tickets for the show, which will be seated, are priced £35. Call the box office on 0870 320 7000 or go online at www.wolverhampton.gov.uk

Hold on to tickets as Duran Duran pull out

DURAN Duran had to cancel their homecoming show at Birmingham LG Arena on Saturday night as singer Simon Le Bon had laryngitis and was advised by a specialist to rest his voice.

This meant the band also had to postpone shows in Nottingham and Liverpool, which would have marked the start of their All You Need is Now world tour.

Fans are advised to hold on to their tickets as a rescheduled date for the Birmingham show should be announced this week.

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SO YOU THINK
YOU CAN DANCE
(BBC1, 7.30pm).

The war on the floor continues, as Cat Deeley and judges Nigel Lythgoe, Arlene Phillips and Louise Redknapp arrive at the live quarter finals of So You Think You Can Dance 2011. The pressure has never been higher for the remaining eight dancers, who will be forced to dance for their lives and their place in the competition. After the octet perform group routines, couples' dances and dazzling solos, the viewers now vote for their favourite individual performer on an individual basis — so from now on it's every man or woman for themselves in the battle to be named Britain's favourite dancer.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.10** Formula 1: The Monaco Grand Prix — Qualifying. The battle for pole ahead of the sixth round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Golf: The PGA Championship. **4.50** Don't Scare the Hare. **5.25** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.45** So You Think You Can Dance Live.

6.45 Doctor Who. Part two of two. A doppelganger seeks revenge against her makers.

7.30 So You Think You Can Dance. The dancers with the lowest votes perform again.

8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Pop group Hanson are guests on the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.50 Casualty. Tess resorts to drastic measures to avoid losing another patient, but when she is forced to accept the blame for Daniel's death, she makes a stand against hospital bureaucracy.

9.40 John Bishop's Britain. Comedy with guest Natalie Cassidy. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.25** FILM: Face/Off. (1997)

Action thriller, starring John Travolta. **12.35** Film: Steal. (2002) Crime thriller, starring Stephen Dorff; Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: Bell, Book and Candle. (1958) Supernatural romantic comedy, with James Stewart and Kim Novak. **1.40** Film: The Cheyenne Social Club. (1970) Comedy Western, starring James Stewart. **3.20** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **4.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Golf: The PGA Championship. Further live coverage of the third day's play at Wentworth in Surrey.

6.00 Flog It! From St Austell, Cornwall. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. American troops arrive in Walmington-on-Sea. (R)

7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. The winner of the People's Award for best show garden is revealed.

8.00 Terry and June. The couple erect a tent in their garden. (R)

8.30 The Many Faces of June Whitfield. The comedy actress tells the story of her career. (R)

9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina goes on a diet. (R)

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Bill Bailey hosts, with guests Armando Iannucci and Jack Whitehall. (R)

10.45 Ol' XL. With Sandi Toksvig, Bill Bailey, Sean Lock and John Hodgman. (R)

11.30 Grumpy Old Holidays. Irreverent perspectives on camping holidays. (R)

12.00 French Open Tennis. **1.00** Later with Jools Holland. (R) **2.05** Film: Under the Mud. (2006) Comedy, starring Andrew Schofield, Lenny Wood and Lisa Parry. **3.30** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** House Gift. (R) **9.25** Coronation Street. **11.45** This Morning: Saturday. **12.45** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.25** Film: Carry On Cowboy. (1966) Comedy Western, starring Sid James. **3.10** Film: For Your Eyes Only. (1981) James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore. **5.30** Regional Programmes. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 New Animals Do the Funniest Things. Comical clips and quirky stories from the animal kingdom, including a pigeon in need of sat-nav and dogs that have learned to read. Stephen Mulhern presents.

7.00 Live UEFA Champions League Final. Barcelona v Manchester United (Kick-off 7.45pm).

Coverage of the showpiece match at Wembley Stadium, where the biggest prize in European club football is at stake. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

10.25 ITV News: Weather. **10.40** UEFA Champions League Highlights. Barcelona v Manchester United. Action from the final at Wembley Stadium.

11.40 Premiership Rugby Union. Leicester Tigers v Saracens.

12.40 The Zone. Shopping and interactive gaming: ITV News Headlines. **2.45** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Film Show. (R) **7.00** British GT Championship. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Friends. (R) **9.25** T4: Koko Pop. **10.00** T4: The Hangover Part II: T4 Movie Special. **10.30** T4: Glee. **11.30** T4: Friends. (R) **12.00** Paralympic World Cup. The fifth and final day from Manchester. Last in the series. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me Extra Portions. (R)

6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.20 4thought.tv. A 28-year-old woman discusses the Catholic Church's official policy of celibacy for priests.

6.25 FILM: Titanic. (1997) A society girl falls in love with a penniless artist during the liner's ill-fated voyage. James Cameron's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.

10.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall. Last in the series.

11.20 Dylan Moran: Aim Low. Compilation of the comedian's best moments.

12.25 Film: In America. (2003) Drama, starring Samantha Morton. **2.10** Mother of Many. (R) **2.15** Slow Joe. (R) **2.25** A Family Portrait. (R) **2.30** The Tannery. (R) **2.35** Paraphernalia. (R) **2.50** The Dead Zone. (R) **3.35** Hill Street Blues. (R) **4.30** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.05** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green — At the Ends of the Earth. (R) **12.05** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.05** Film: The Staircase Murders. (2007) Thriller, starring Treat Williams. **2.50** Film: Last of the Dogmen. (1995) Modern-day western, starring Tom Berenger. **5.05** Film: Two Mules for Sister Sara. (1970) Western, starring Clint Eastwood.

7.00 Cricket. England v Sri Lanka.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 NCIS. A six-year-old boy claims his father has been kidnapped, and the agents learn the missing man is a lieutenant commander who has been working on a confidential report. (R)

9.00 CSI: Miami. The CSIs uncover a plot to distribute a new type of ammunition designed to explode on impact, and the ensuing investigation brings Horatio into contact with old adversary Ron Saris. (R)

10.00 CSI: NY. The crime lab is attacked.

11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A patient is murdered at a psychiatric hospital. (R)

11.55 Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R)

12.10 SCXTRA. **12.40** SuperCasino. **3.55** Rough Guide to Islands. (R) **4.10** Great Scientists. (R) **4.35** HouseBusters. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.05 Britain's Got More Talent **4.05** American Idol **7.00** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **9.00** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **11.00** Celebrity Juice **11.45** Film: The Astronaut's Wife (1999)

ITV3
3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Viewers' Favourite Agatha Christie **11.05** David Suchet: Poirot & Me **11.10** Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4
3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. The final. **7.30** Police, Camera, Action! **8.00** Film: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) **9.50** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978)

BBC THREE
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.30** Doctor Who Confidential **8.15** Top Gear **9.15** Live at the Apollo **9.45** Film: Kill Bill: Vol One (2003) **11.30** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Latin Music USA **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **11.00** The Golden Age of Canals

E4
3.55 Made in Chelsea **5.00** Friends **6.00** Glee **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Friends **10.00** Film: Cocktail (1988)

FILM4
3.05 Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) Family comedy remake, starring Steve Martin. **4.55** Sister Act (1992) Musical comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **6.55** Attack the Block Special **7.00** Fantastic Four (2005) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **9.00** Run Fat Boy Run (2007) Romantic comedy, with Simon Pegg and Thandie Newton. **10.55** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) Horror, starring George Clooney.



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ANTIQUES
ROADSHOW
(BBC1, 8pm).

Funny, isn't it, how something as potentially dull as the Antiques Roadshow, has become a national institution? There they are, the antiques experts stuffed into the corners of dusty public buildings like the long-forgotten relics they're about to examine, ready to give their valuable opinions on everything from granny's cracked old teapot to some priceless treasure the owner nearly sold to a tout for a tenner. This week, Fiona Bruce and the experts back to Hampton Court Castle in Herefordshire, where items up for valuation include a silver dish given to former prime minister Neville Chamberlain.

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Country Tracks: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.05** Formula 1: The Monaco Grand Prix Live. The sixth round of the season (start-time 1.00pm). **3.20** EastEnders. **5.15** Points of View. **5.30** Songs of Praise.

6.05 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011. Highlights from this year's festival. Last in the series.

6.35 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Julia Bradbury walks the Offa's Dyke National Trail to mark its 40th anniversary, and Chris Packham launches the programme's annual photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more items at Hampton Court Castle in Herefordshire.

9.00 FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Captain Jack Sparrow battles to save his soul from the legendary Davy Jones and his fearsome sea monster. Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp.

11.20 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of the League One play-off final at Old Trafford; Weatherview.

12.40 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) **1.40** Holby City. (R) **2.40** A History of Ancient Britain. (R) **3.40** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.30** Film: The Long Ships. (1963) Viking adventure, starring Richard Widmark and Sidney Poitier. **2.30** Golf: The PGA Championship. The fourth and final day's play at Wentworth in Surrey.

6.10 Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections. How engineers made a bridge across the Gulf of Corinth earthquake-proof.

7.00 Top Gear. The hosts bid to prove that cars can be art. (R)

8.00 Britain's Secret Seas. Paul Rose, Tooni Mahto and Frank Pope join the excavation of a 17th-century ship that has been found in the waters outside Poole Harbour, Dorset.

9.00 Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail. Part two of two. The reporter follows a group of younger inmates who have avoided prison by agreeing to endure the brutal training at a four-month military-style boot camp.

10.00 Queen: Days of Our Lives. Part one of two. The story of the extravagant British rock band.

11.00 The Shadow Line. Jay puts Bede's new business deal in jeopardy. (R)

12.00 French Open Tennis. The fourth round in both the men's and women's draws. **1.00** BBC News. **4.10** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** May the Best House Win. **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **11.30** This Morning: Sunday. **12.30** Di...nner Date. (R) **1.30** ITV News: Weather. **1.40** Film: Honey. (2003) Urban dance drama, starring Jessica Alba. **3.30** New Animals Do the Funniest Things. (R) **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programmes. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Coronation Street. Fizz discovers John with Colin Fishwick's body.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the final round of auditions in front of judges Michael McIntyre, Amanda Holden and David Hasselhoff, before the 40 acts selected for the live shows are announced.

9.00 Scott & Bailey. New series. Crime drama following two detectives working for a Manchester police unit that specialises in murder cases.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 The Classic Brit Awards 2011. Myleene Klass presents from London's Royal Albert Hall.

11.45 The Day John Lennon Died. Documentary first shown in 2010 to mark 30 years since the former Beatle's death. (R)

12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** Motorsport UK. **2.55** ITV News. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.30** Freesports on 4. **8.00** T4: Friends. (R) **8.30** T4: Friends. (R) **9.00** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.30** T4: Being N-Dubz: The A-Z Guide. **12.05** T4: Glee. (R) **1.05** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.40** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.10** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.40** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **3.15** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.45** Channel 4 News. **4.55** 4thought.tv. **5.00** Film: Home Alone. (1990) Family comedy, with Macaulay Culkin.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. A Swedish table-tennis enthusiast competes against a politics student, a personal development coach and a DJ as the dinner party challenge heads to Leeds.

8.00 The Hotel. A husband and wife who have recently been through a trial separation check in at the Damsen Dene, hoping to get their marriage back on track.

9.00 FILM: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. (2008) Premiere. A baby is born with the physique of a geriatric, and as he moves through life, grows younger with each passing year. Fantasy drama, starring Brad Pitt.

12.10 Film: Equilibrium. (2002) Sci-fi adventure, starring Christian Bale. **2.05** Diagnosis Live from the Clinic. (R) **3.00** The Sex Education Show: Am I Normal? (R) **3.55** Civilization: Is the West History? (R) **4.50** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Pappa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** Elmo's World. (R) **7.05** Chiro. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** Hana's Helpline. (R) **7.50** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) Milkshake! Show Songs. **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Olivia. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** McFly on the Wall. **10.50** Family Food Fight. (R) **11.20** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.20** Film: Three to Tango. (1999) Romantic comedy, starring Matthew Perry and Neve Campbell. **2.10** Film: Contact. (1997) Sci-fi drama, starring Jodie Foster. **4.55** Film: Mission to Mars. (2000) Sci-fi adventure, starring Gary Sinise.

6.55 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Pirates of the Caribbean: The True Story. (R) **9.00** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. A countdown of memorable incidents and controversial contestants. (R) **11.55** Russell and Katy Get Married. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.55** Rough Guide To. (R) **4.10** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
4.30 Planet's Funniest Animals **4.55** Holiday Airport: Lanzarote **5.55** Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **8.00** Lose 30 Stone or Die **9.00** Britain's Got More Talent **10.00** Peter Andre: The Next Chapter **11.00** Britain's Got Talent

ITV3
3.50 Film: Agatha Christie's Murder with Mirrors (1985) **5.45** David Suchet: Poirot & Me **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **10.00** Agatha Christie's Pale Horse

ITV4
2.30 Football 40: London Legends Cup Live. The inaugural staging of the tournament from Craven Cottage. **6.15** 20 Football Transfers That Shocked the World **7.15** World's Wildest Police Videos **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Missouri Breaks (1976) **11.35** Film: Boogie Nights (1997)

BBC THREE
7.00 Chopin 1: The Monaco Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Doctor Who **8.45** Doctor Who Confidential **9.00** Little Britain **9.30** Ideal **10.00** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Chopin Etudes **7.05** A History of Christianity **8.05** Thora **8.30** Last of the Summer Wine **9.00** Welly Telly - The Countryside on Television **10.00** Dorset Days - A Year in the Life of Longhorn Jim **11.00** The Joy of Easy Listening

E4
3.50 Film: Entrapment (1999) **6.00** Friends **7.00** 90210 **8.00** Friends **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Being Erica **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.00 Carousel (1956) **5.35** Inspector Gadget (1999) **7.10** The Wedding Date (2005) Romantic comedy, with Debra Messing. **8.50** X-Men: First Class Special **9.00** X-Men (2000) **11.00** The Square (2008)

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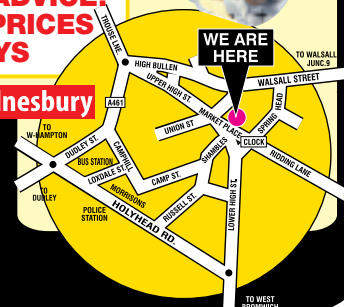
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Wednesbury



Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Fake Britain. 9.45 Homes Under the Hammer. 10.45 Real Rescues. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.45 BBC News; Weather. 1.05 Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.15 Film: The Call to the Hat. (2003) 3.30 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave. (R) 4.00 Pinar: 25 Magic Moments. 5.00 Film: WALL-E. (2008) 6.30 BBC News; 6.45 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Saints and Scoundrels. (R) 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Egypt's Lost Cities. 10.00 BBC News. 10.05 Regional News; Weather. 10.30 A Question of Sport. 10.45 The Football League Show. 11.25 The Graham Norton Show; (R) Weatherview. 12.15 Sign Zone: Wonders of the Universe. (R) 1.15 Inside the Human Body. (R) 2.15 The Secrets of Scott's Hot. (R) 3.45 One Man and His Campervan. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: The 39 Steps. (1935) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Robert Donat. 1.00 Rowing. 2.30 Animal 24/7. (R) 3.00 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 The Hair Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 5.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 6.00 Great British Menu. 7.00 The Story of Ireland. 8.00 Springwatch 2011. 9.00 All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace. 10.00 Queen: Days of Our Lives. 11.00 Queen: The Legendary 1975 Concert. (R) 11.50 Richard Hammond's Engineering Connection. 12.40 French Open Tennis. 14.00 BBC News. 3.40 The Super League Show. (R) 4.15 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.25 This Morning. 11.30 Loose Women. 12.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.40 Regional News; Weather. 1.50 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.20 Film: On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (1969) James Bond adventure, with George Lazenby. 5.00 Celebrity Britain's Best Dish: Coronation Street v Emmerdale. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. (R) 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Britain's Got Talent. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.15 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous. (2005) 12.20 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.20 Film: Champions League Weekly. 2.50 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 Sali Mali. (R) 6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 The Hoobs. (R) 6.55 Freshly Squeezed. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.50 Frasier. (R) 8.20 Frasier. (R) 8.50 Friends. (R) 9.20 Accidentally on Purpose. 9.50 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.50 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 11.55 Jamie at Home. (R) 12.20 Film: Cleo of the Titans. (1981) Mythical adventure, starring Harry Hamlin. 2.35 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 4thout.tv. 7.10 Film: The Italian Job. (1969) 9.00 Gordon's Great Escape. 10.00 Film: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. (2004) Sporting comedy, starring Ben Stiller. 11.55 The Event. 12.50 Poker. 1.45 24 Hours in A&E. (R) 2.40 The Sex Education Show: Am I Normal? (R) 3.35 Life, Death and Suffer. (R) 3.40 The Dead Zone. (R) 4.25 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.15 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.40 Sali Mali. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 How Do They Do It? (R) 11.30 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.25 5 News Lunchtime. 12.35 Home and Away. 1.05 Neighbours. 1.35 Film: Corner Creek. (1948) Western, starring Randolph Scott. 3.25 Film: Fort Worth. (1951) Western drama, starring Randolph Scott. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Monkey Life. (R) 6.55 5 News at 7. 7.00 Cricket: 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Film: A Few Good Men. (1992) 12.50 Forensic Files. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.05 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Journeys. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fake Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holly City. 9.00 Undercover Cafe - the Abuse Exposed. Panorama. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.35 Crimewatch on the Streets. 11.35 The Lock Up; Weatherview. 12.10 Sign Zone: Children's Craniofacial Surgery. (R) 1.10 Wootton Bassett: The Town That Remembers. (R) 2.10 Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 2.55 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Gunga Din. (1939) Action adventure, starring Cary Grant. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Animal 24/7. (R) 3.00 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 The Hair Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 5.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 6.00 Great British Menu. 7.00 Britain's Secret Seas. (R) 8.00 Springwatch 2011. 9.00 The Country House Revealed. 10.00 Lead Balloon. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Time to Remember. (R) 11.50 French Open Tennis. 12.50 BBC News. 3.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Celebrity Britain's Best Dish: Loose Women v Olympians. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 Emmerdale. 7.30 Britain's Got Talent. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Mickey Blue Eyes. (1999) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Jeanne Tripplehorn. 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Crossing Jordan. 3.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.30 Accidentally on Purpose. 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 In Your Dreams. (R) 12.15 The Home Show. (R) 1.20 Film: Appointment in London. (1952) Second World War drama, starring Dirk Bogarde. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 4thout.tv. 7.10 Film: The Secret Millionaire. 10.00 Jamie's Food Revolution Hits Hollywood. 11.05 Misfits. 12.10 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.10 Freeports on the Edge. (R) 1.35 The Grid. (R) 2.05 British GT Championship. (R) 2.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 2.55 FIVB Beach Volleyball. (R) 3.50 Catching the Impossible. (R) 4.45 Triathlon. (R) 5.15 Full Metal Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Highland Emergency. (R) 12.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Meals in Moments. (R) 3.15 Film: Sub Zero. (2005) Premiere. Action adventure, starring Costas Mandylor. 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Zoo Days. 8.00 Superize Grime; 5 News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Ray's ex-wife Gloria is kidnapped by serial killer Nate Haskell. 10.00 CSI: Miami. A suburban mother is murdered. (R) 10.55 CSI: NY. (R) 11.55 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.05 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Bang for Your Buck. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fake Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Waterloo Road; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 Life of Riley. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Not Going Out. (R) 11.15 Film: Forces of Nature. (1999) National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 1.00 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.30 Watchdog. (R) 2.30 Country Tracks. (R) 3.25 The British at Work. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Berlin Express. (1948) Thriller, starring Merle Oberon. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Animal 24/7. (R) 3.00 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 The Hair Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 5.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 6.00 Great British Menu. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 7.30 Springwatch 2011. 8.30 Springwatch Unsprung 2011. 9.00 Wonderland - The Men Who Won't Stop Marching. 10.00 The Apprentice: You're Fired! 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. 11.50 Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail. (R) 12.50 French Open Tennis. 1.50 BBC News. 4.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Celebrity Britain's Best Dish: The Morning v Daybreak. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Pieri Met Sir Cliff. (R) 11.55 Amanda Holden's Fantasy Lives. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: Boogymen. (2005) 4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Accidentally on Purpose. 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 In Your Dreams. (R) 12.15 Film: The Great Sioux Massacre. (1965) Western, starring Joseph Cotten. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 4thout.tv. 7.10 Film: The Secret Millionaire. 10.00 Jamie's Food Revolution Live from the Clinic. 9.00 24 Hours in A&E. 10.00 Desperate Housewives. 11.05 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show. Spotlight. 12.15 The Album Chart Show: See Lo. (R) 12.45 Mercury Prize Sessions. (R) 1.05 Film: Riding in Cars with Boys. (2001) 3.15 The Sex Education Show: Am I Normal? (R) 4.10 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Highland Emergency. (R) 12.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 3.20 Film: Summer House. (2008) 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Zoo Days. (R) 8.00 5 News Update. 8.00 Emergency Bikers: 5 News at 9. 9.00 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. 10.00 Film: Resident Evil: Apocalypse. (2004) 11.55 Sex Lessons. (R) 12.15 SCXTRA. 12.45 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.05 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fake Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Andrew Marr's Magpie. 9.00 Traffic Cops. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 Film: Presumed Innocent. (1990) Mystery thriller, starring Harrison Ford; Holiday Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) 2.40 Britain's Next Big Thing. (R) 3.40 DIY SOS: The Big Build. (R) 4.40 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Escape to Burma. (1955) Romantic jungle adventure, with Barbara Stanwyck. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.00 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 The Hair Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 5.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 6.00 Great British Menu. 7.00 The Culture Show. 8.00 Springwatch 2011. 9.00 The Shadow Line. Gatehouse finally tracks down Glickman. 10.00 Psychoville 2. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Time to Remember. (R) 11.50 French Open Tennis. 12.50 The Culture Show. (R) 1.50 BBC News. 4.50 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Celebrity Britain's Best Dish: The Morning v Daybreak. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 When Piers Met Sir Cliff. (R) 11.55 Amanda Holden's Fantasy Lives. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Nightwatch with Steve Scott. Crime. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Friends. (R) 9.30 Accidentally on Purpose. 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 The Home Show. (R) 1.05 Film: The Silent Enemy. (1958) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 4thout.tv. 7.10 Film: A Bed. 9.00 Meet the Elephant Man. 10.00 Bums, Buns and Bolognese. The Secret Millionaire. (R) 12.05 The Film Show. 12.35 Music on 4: JD Set Presents. (R) 12.50 Music on 4: 4Play; Cat's Eyes. 1.05 The Model Agency. (R) 2.00 The Sex Education Show: Am I Normal? (R) 2.55 Unreported World. (R) 3.25 The Dead Zone. (R) 4.05 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Highland Emergency. (R) 12.00 Meals in Moments. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 3.20 Film: Summer House. (2008) 5.00 5 News at 5; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Zoo Days. (R) 8.00 5 News Update. 8.00 Emergency Bikers: 5 News at 9. 9.00 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. 10.00 Film: Resident Evil: Apocalypse. (2004) 11.55 Sex Lessons. (R) 12.15 SCXTRA. 12.45 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.05 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Fake Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. 11.45 Cash in the Attic. (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport. (R) 9.00 Have I Got News for You. 9.30 Quizmaster. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. 12.55 The One Show; (R) Weatherview. 2.00 Sign Zone: Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) 3.00 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.30 One Man and His Campervan. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Escape to Burma. (1955) Romantic jungle adventure, with Barbara Stanwyck. 1.00 Diagnostic Murder. (R) 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.15 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.00 Rewind the 60s. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 The Hair Bikers' Food Tour of Britain. (R) 5.15 Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) 6.00 Great British Menu. 7.00 Windfarm Wars. 8.00 Petworth House - The Big Spring Clean. (R) 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 John Bradbury's Canal Walks. 9.30 Paul Merton's Birth of Hollywood. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 Foo Fighters: Back and Forth. 1.35 Foo Fighters at R1BW 2011. 2.05 French Open Tennis. 3.05 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Celebrity Britain's Best Dish: I'm a Celebrity Boys v Girls. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent. 9.00 Coronation Street. 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: American Pie. (1999) 12.20 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.25 Film: Gorillas in the Mist. (1988) 4.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Friends. (R) 9.25 Accidentally on Purpose. 9.55 Location, Location, Location. (R) 10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 In Your Dreams. (R) 12.15 My Eden. (R) 12.25 The Home Show. (R) 1.25 Film: When Eight Bells Toll. (1971) Thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.05 4thout.tv. 7.10 Film: A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. 9.00 Film: Saving Private Ryan. (1998) Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks. 12.10 Comic's Choice: Alan Davies. (R) 1.10 My Name Is Earl. (R) 1.55 Ugly Betty. (R) 3.25 The Dead Zone. (R) 4.10 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.00 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Highland Emergency. (R) 12.00 Meals in Moments. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 Law & Order. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.05 Meals in Moments. 3.10 Film: This Matter of Marriage. (1998) Romantic drama, with Sherry Miller. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 6.55 5 News at 7. 7.00 Cricket. 8.00 Eddie Shore: Trucks and Trailers. 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. Part one of two. Red John's CBI mole is unmasked. 10.00 Law & Order. A case of arson becomes a murder investigation. 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.55 Rough Guide to: 12.15 SCXTRA. 12.45 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorboat Murder. 4.30 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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The Merchant of Venice.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

DIRECTOR Rupert Goold's brash and bold version of Shakespeare's most controversial play could be renamed *The Merchant of Vegas*, relocating the tale of Shylock the Jew from 1500s Venice to Sin City USA.

It is set amid the gaming tables and fruit machines of a casino complete with showgirls, mobsters and a hip-shaking Elvis impersonator.

The purists and the traditionalists will loathe it. But this is vibrant, sexy, laugh-out-loud Shakespeare which, crucially, does not flinch from the cruel anti-Semitism at the heart of this play.

In this glitzy production ducats change to dollars and Shakespeare's lines are delivered with broad American accents.

Within this radical re-imagining, which bares the stamp of the director who had *West End* success with the flashy and hard-hitting *Enron*, Shakespeare's language and themes of racism and greed remain intact. It is not dumbed down but it is on an artificial high, as are some of the characters judging by the little



Emily Plumtree (Nerissa) and Susannah Fielding (Portia) in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Photo: Ellie Kurtz/RSC

white wraps they slip each other. Patrick Stewart is implacable and frightening as the money-lender Shylock, literally demanding his "pound of flesh" from the merchant Antonio (a solemn performance by Scott Handy) when he fails to repay his debt.

Here his vengeance is partly redirected rage after his daughter Jessica (a dowdy, bespectacled Caroline Martin) betrays him by running

off with her Christian boyfriend (Daniel Percival's wiseguy Lorenzo) and the family treasure. They leave dressed as Batman and Robin during a riotous carnival.

Stewart delivers the "Hath not a Jew eyes?" speech with great power.

It opens the audience's eyes to his pain at the casual, unthinking self-righteous racism of Antonio and his ilk. It is insult and exclusion

that drives Shylock's monstrous thirst for revenge.

However, the actor knight is not the star of this production. Susannah Fielding is stunning as a southern belle Portia, the woman wooed by Antonio's friend Bassanio (Richard Riddell's hunk with a heart), the financing of which caused the debt.

The scenes in which her suitors must solve a riddle and choose a casket to prove their suitability, is presented as the TV quiz show *Destiny*. Contestants include the Prince of Morocco as heavyweight boxer and Mexican-hat wearing Prince of Arragon.

Her Portia is no dumb blonde, akin to Legally Blonde's Elle Woods as she turns into a lawyer (in disguise as a man) for one of the most famous court scenes in theatre.

All the glittering glamour is cast aside in a downbeat ending.

Fielding is spellbinding as Portia breaks down, tearing off her blonde wig and stumbling out of her high heels as she realises her Bassanio loves Antonio more.

The Merchant of Venice is in the RSC's repertoire at Stratford until September 24.

Leon Burakowski

The Blues Brothers.
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

SWEAT glistening on brows and a struggle to breathe after two hours of high energy, high emotion singing and dancing – and that was just the audience at The All New Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers.

The Brothers themselves and their backing singers and dancers, the Bluettes, must have been absolutely shattered.

This show doesn't try to tell the original story of how Jake and Elwood were trying to raise cash for an orphanage through their shows. Basically it just takes you on a breathless ride through a series of great songs.

As usual, it starts with the Peter Gunn Theme and Act 1 also includes classics like *Can't Turn You Loose*, *Shake A Tail Feather*, *Respect* and *Land of a Thousand Dances*.

Brad Henshaw makes an ideal Jake and brings back memories of John Belushi, who first played the role. Henshaw is just the right build – slightly overweight with his shirt buttons straining to contain his stomach and dishevelled compared with the smart Elwood (Daniel Fletcher).

But Fletcher takes lead in the highlight of Act 2 – a slowed-down, near a capella version of *Under the Boardwalk*, with perfect harmonising by the Bluettes.

Then they revved it up again with *Think*, *Soul Man* and *Jailhouse Rock* before a medley for the encore.

There's plenty of humour in the show, with Heath Town getting some stick, and a few references to Wolves and their boss, Mick McCarthy. It was ironic that we had the Blues raising a cheer after Wolves stayed in the Premiership by the skin of their teeth, which condemned Birmingham's Blues to relegation.

The Blues Brothers is on at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until Saturday, May 28.

Sue Attwater



Daniel Fletcher and Bradnsheaw and the Blues Brothers



The mesmerising Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace

Midnight Tango.
Birmingham Hippodrome

IMPRESSIVE scenery created the perfect atmosphere for the sensational *Midnight Tango*, transferring the stage of the Hippodrome into a bar in downtown Buenos Aires.

Celebrating the passionate dance of tango, this wonderful production, starring *Strictly Come Dancing*'s Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, is full of drama, sensuality and elegance.

The loose storyline centres on two lovers using stunning dance to plot out different stages of their relationship.

Sleek, stylish and sexy are the ingredients for the breath-taking dance routines performed by the entire cast. Joined on stage by 10 superb tango dancers, there is no doubt, though, who the stars are as cheers from the audi-

ence greeted Vincent and Flavia.

Performing incredible dance routines that demanded perfect timing, the couple are mesmerising as their legs intertwine, making it almost impossible to work out where one body ends and the other begins.

The beautiful and distinctive music is played by the first-class *Tango Siempre* musicians together with the incredible voice of Martin Alvarado.

A well received duet with the violinist displayed another of Flavia's talents.

Husband and wife owners of the bar sprinkled an excellent comedy element throughout the show.

The final *Fiesta* scene was an explosion of colour, music and energy that brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation.

Les Jowett

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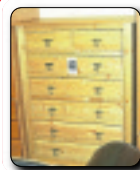
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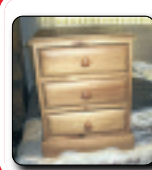
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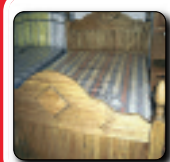


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Ground floor flat on market for £87,950

This ground floor flat in Willenhall is on the market for £87,950. The modern two-bedroomed property is situated in Lister Street and is on the market with estate agent Fraser Wood.

Complete with uPVC double glazing and electric storage heating, the property features a fitted kitchen, lounge with feature fireplace and garage.

The property comprises a modern, purpose-built, two bedroom ground floor flat, within a small three storey development at the junction of Lister Street and Gipsy Lane.

It is conveniently situated for the centre of Willenhall and in close proximity to the A454 Black Country Route providing access to Junction 10 of the M6 Motorway and the remainder of the West Midlands Conurbation.

Internal viewing is recommended by the estate agent to appreciate the accommodation.

A Communal entrance leads to Flat 1.

From the entrance door to the flat there is a hall with storage and airing cupboard off housing hot water cylinder, wall-mounted electric storage heater, ceiling spot lights and buzzer telephone entry system.

A front facing lounge measures 14ft x 13ft having as its focal point a feature remote controlled electric fireplace, uPVC double glazed window to front elevation, spot lighting to ceiling and wall-mounted electric storage heater.

Cupboards

A rear facing kitchen measuring 11ft 4in average x 8ft 6in average having a fitted suite with a range of matching base and wall-mounted cupboards, preformed roll-top work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink unit, fitted integral electric fan assisted oven and four-ring electric hob with extractor hood over, uPVC double glazed window to rear elevation, tiling to floor and electric storage heater.

A condensing tumble drier and automatic washing machine may be available to purchase by way of separate negotiation.

Front facing bedroom one measures 10ft x 8ft 11in plus recess, including a range of fitted wardrobes and cupboards, wall-mounted electric storage heater, TV aerial socket, uPVC double glazed window to front elevation. A second bedroom measuring approximately 10ft 3in average x 8ft 11in average with a wall-mounted slimline electric storage heater and uPVC double glazed window to front elevation.

The bathroom being part tiled, having a fitted white suite comprising panelled bath with electric power shower, pedestal wash basin, low-flush WC suite, tiling to floor, extractor fan to ceiling, wall-mounted electric fan heater, obscure uPVC double glazed window to rear.

Outside, electrically operated gates lead to an enclosed courtyard at the rear, off which the property has a garage measuring approximately 20ft 4in x 8ft with up-and-over door and electric power point.

For further information, or to arrange a viewing, call the estate agent on 01902 367367.



The modern two-bed flat is part of a small development in Willenhall, accessed by electrically operated gates

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 7th JUNE 2011

RESIDENTIAL FREEHOLDS WITH VACANT POSSESSION

20 FINCHFIELD LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON



Fine Detached on large plot. Reception Hall, fitted Cloakroom, Through Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, & WC, Galleried Landing, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, through Garage, long Rear Garden.

Guide: £240,000 / £260,000
VIEWING - FRIDAY 27th & SATURDAY 28th MAY @ 9.30 am

43 WARSTONES ROAD, PENN



Individual Detached Bungalow close to shops. Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, white Bathroom, Carport, Gardens.

Guide: £73,000 / £78,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 27th & SATURDAY 28th MAY @ 10.30 am

255 WARSTONES ROAD, PENN



Spacious Three Bed Semi in good location. Large Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, Garage and off road Parking, Rear Garden.

Guide: £98,000 / £105,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 27th & SATURDAY 28th MAY @ 11.15 am

27 REDHILL AVENUE, WOMBOURNE



Spacious Three Bedroomed Semi within a pleasant residential cul-de-sac. Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Bathroom, Gas CH, WC & Store, large Rear Garden and deep Foregarden.

Guide: £70,000 / £75,000
VIEWING: FRIDAY 27th & SATURDAY 28th MAY @ 12.15 pm

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT REGULATED/TENANCY

28 GREAT BRIDGE ROAD, BILSTON



Three Bed Semi with deep foregarden. Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room. Offered subject to Tenancy - Registered Rent £57.00 per week

Guide: £39,000 / £44,000
VIEWING: TUESDAY 31st MAY @ 3.45 pm

Nos. 2 & 3 CROSS STREET, WILLENHALL



Close to Centre - Two adjacent Shop Units with additional First Floor Rooms. Current Income - £11,020 pax

Guide: £80,000 / £90,000
VIEWING: TUESDAY 31st MAY @ 2.30 pm

77B STAFFORD STREET, WILLENHALL



Self contained double fronted Shop Premises - approx. 310 sq ft with additional Store and WC. Vacant Possession

Guide: £28,000 / £33,000
VIEWING: THURSDAY 24th & FRIDAY 25th MAY @ 11.00 am

NR ELLESMERE, SHROPSHIRE



Freehold Licensed Premises let on Twenty Year FRI Lease current income £15,480 pax PLUS large adjacent Plot with development potential (subject to Planning). Total Area estimated just under One Acre.

Guide: £220,000 / £240,000
VIEWING: BY APPOINTMENT

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VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule

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Stunning home in prime location



This refurbished Victorian home has a range of luxurious features and stands in half an acre

Located in an exclusive area, this recently refurbished Victorian home provides luxurious family living with the added bonus of an indoor swimming pool complex. Brook House, in Broad Lane South, Wednesfield, is described by the selling agent Berriman Eaton as "one of the most impressive houses within its road".

The house, which stands in approximately half an acre of land with highly attractive gardens to the rear, is on the market for offers in the region of £570,000. On approach, a twin pair of wrought iron gates open onto an extensive driveway and a large, shaped lawn.

There is a carport and a detached garage, measuring 32ft 3in x 23ft 5in, with a remote-controlled elevating door and full-depth pit with wooden cover, electric light and power. A porch with double panelled entrance doors and panelled front door opens into a hallway with a double-glazed and leaded window, formal fireplace, rafted ceiling and a dividing oak and leaded coloured glass screen to the inner staircase hall, which has an understairs cloak and storage cupboard.

Measuring 12ft 5in x 10ft 5in, the sitting room has a walk-in leaded bay window to the front.

There is also a walk-in leaded bay window in the dining room, which has dimensions of 16ft 9in x 16ft 6in and a brick fireplace housing a flame-effect gas fire. Measuring 37ft 6in x 16ft 3in, the drawing room provides an impressive principal reception room, which is divided into two areas – an informal dining area with built-in dresser to one side and an open arch with two steps leading to a lounge area with sliding doors to an inner courtyard, a built-in corner bar and sliding double glazed doors to the pool hall.

The kitchen has dimensions of 14ft 6in x 11ft 9in, with a comprehensive range of wall and base units and space for appliances. An inner hall with tiled floor and door leads to the laundry, which has plumbing for a washing machine and houses the gas-fired central heating boiler.

The guest WC has a fitted suite including a pedestal wash basin and quarry tiled floor. Stairs from the hallway rise to the part-galleried landing, which has an original coloured window at the front and access to the roof space.

Co-ordinating

The master bedroom measures 17ft 8in x 12ft 9in, with a rear-facing leaded bow window, a fitted dressing table with drawers to either side and co-ordinating furniture. An en suite shower room is fitted with a white suite comprising a fully-tiled double shower cubicle, a pedestal wash basin and WC. Bedroom two measures 12ft x 10ft 11in, with leaded windows, while the third, which has dimensions of 13ft x 11ft 1in, has a cast iron and enamel corner fireplace. The fourth bedroom measures 12ft 3in x 12ft, while the fifth, with dimensions of 10ft 11in x 10ft 1in, has a range of wardrobes. In the bathroom, there is a fitted suite comprising a panelled, corner air bath, a WC and pedestal wash basin.

The swimming pool hall measures 62ft 4in x 31ft 4in and is entered from the drawing room via a patio door. In here, there is a 29ft heated swimming pool with underwater lighting.

A sliding door gives access to the inner courtyard, which has a pond and rockery, while four pairs of sliding patio doors lead out to the gardens. There is a timbered ceiling, air conditioning and wooden balustrading to a leisure area, which has a gymnasium area. Measuring 13ft x 10ft 9in, the garden room has a tiled floor and doors to the patio and gardens and inner courtyard.

A side workshop/garage measures 49ft x 9ft 6in x 10ft 5in, while there is a pleasant rear garden with lawns, patios and a greenhouse. Contact the agent's Tattenhall office on 01902 747744 to arrange a viewing.



The 29ft indoor heated swimming pool has underwater lighting and mosaic tiling

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● Open Plan Concept
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility
● En-Suite
● Family Bathroom
● Gated Driveway
● Viewing Essential
● No Upward Chain

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**Bealeys Close
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● Four Bedroom
● Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Breakfast Kitchen
● Utility Room
● Master Bedroom with
En-Suite Shower Room
● Jack & Jill En-Suite
Shower Room
● Family Bathroom
● Integral Garage
● Off Road Parking
● Viewing Essential

In the Region of £284,950



**Fishley Close
Bloxwich**
● Five Bedroom
● Detached
● Dining Room
● Extended Kitchen
● Utility
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom
● Garage
● Driveway

Offers in the Region of £229,950



**Stoney Lane
Bloxwich**
● Four Bed Detached
● Two Reception rooms
● Fitted Kitchen/Utility
● Downstairs Shower
● Bedroom with En-Suite
● Large Driveway
● Garage
● Landscaped Rear Garden

Offers in excess of £210,000



**Albany Grove
Essington**
● Four Bedroom
● Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Extended Kitchen
● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Carport & Garage
● Driveway
● Viewing Essential

Offers in excess of £205,000



**Sandbank
Bloxwich**
● Four Bedroom
● Semi-Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility Room
● Downstairs W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● En-Suite
● Period Features
● Off Road Parking

In the Region of £199,950



**Lambourn Close
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
● Detached Bungalow
● Refurbished
● Throughout Lounge
● Newly Fitted Kitchen
● Newly Fitted Bathroom
● Garage & Driveway
● Rear
● Garden/Corner Plot

£199,950



**Victoria Avenue
Bloxwich**
● Newly built Three
Bedroom Semi-
Detached Houses
● Fitted Kitchen
including appliances
● Block Paved Driveway
● Integral Garage
● Master Bedroom with
En-Suite
● Large Rear Garden
● Block Paved Driveway

In the Region of £179,950



**Old Hall Court
Aldridge**
● Farmhouse courtyard location
● Two Bedrooms
● Two Bathroom, Exposed Beams
● Views over open countryside
● Electric security entry gate
● Gas central heating
● Double glazing
● Feature stone fireplace
● Master bedroom with En-suite
shower room

In the Region of £165,000



**Windrush Close
Pelsall**
● Three Storey Three
Bed Town House
● Fitted Kitchen
● Lounge/Diner
● En-Suite
● Family Bathroom
● Separate Garage
● Allocated parking
● Enclosed Rear Garden

In the Region of £147,950



**Pool Hayes Lane
Wilenhall**
● Three Bedroom
● Detached
● Two Reception Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Three Bedroom
● Garage
● Driveway

In the Region of £145,000



**Heather Road
Bloxwich**
● Four Bedroom Semi-
Detached
● Open Plan Lounge
● Play Room/Study
● Conservatory
● Downstairs W.C.
● Block Paved
● Driveway
● Rear Garden with
sunroom
● Double Glazing
● Central Heating
● No Upward Chain

In the Region of £139,950



**Revival Street
Bloxwich**
● Two, Three & Four
Bedroom Houses
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear
Gardens
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From £139,950



**Parkview Crescent
Walsall**
● Three Bedroom
Semi-Detached
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● Family Bathroom
● Gardens
● Detached Garage
● Block Paved
Driveway

In the Region of £134,950



**Field Road
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Mid Terrace
● New Build 10 year
warranty
● Fitted Kitchen
● Downstairs W.C.
● En-Suite
● Bathroom
● Enclosed Rear
Garden

In the Region of £124,950 + 5% Gifted Deposit



**Mulberry Road
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
End-Terrace
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Conservatory
● Family Bathroom
● Front & Rear
Gardens
● Gas Central Heating
● Double Glazing
● Viewing Essential

In the Region of £114,950



**Field Road
Bloxwich**
● Two Bedroom
House
● New Build 10 year
warranty
● Lounge/Diner
● Fitted Kitchen with
Integrated Appliances
● Downstairs W.C.
● Rear Garden
● Parking to Front

In the Region of £104,950 + 5% Gifted Deposit



**Clockmill Mill
Pelsall**
● Two Bedroom Semi-De-
tached
● Lounge
● Fitted Kitchen
● Utility
● Central Heating
● Double Glazing

Offers in excess of £119,950



**Windrush Close
Pelsall**
● Two Bedroom
Apartment
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Communal
Grounds
● Allocated Parking
● Popular Location
● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £98,950



**Dartmouth Close
Walsall**
● Three Bedroom
Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception
Rooms
● Separate W.C.
● Detached Garage
to Rear
● Gardens
● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £97,500



**Tennyson Road
Wilenhall**
● Three Bedroom
End Terrace
● Lounge/Diner
● Family Bathroom
● Rear Garden
● Off Road Parking
● Double Glazing
● Central Heating

Offers in excess of £95,000



**Hollands Road
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom End-
Terrace
● Two Reception
Rooms
● Ground Floor
Bathroom
● Utility Room
● First Floor Family
Bathroom
● Loft Room
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Mossley Close
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Mid-Terrace House
● Lounge
● Kitchen/Diner
● Cloakroom W.C.
● Family Bathroom
● Double Glazing
● Gas Central
Heating
● Front & Rear
Gardens

Offers in excess of £90,000



**Blakenall Lane
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception
Rooms
● Fitted Kitchen
● Ground Floor
Bathroom
● Front & Rear
Gardens
● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £89,950



**Mulberry Place
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Terrace Property
● Front Reception
Room
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Bathrooms
● Double Glazing
● Gas Central Heating
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Ideal First Time
Buy/Family Home

In the Region of £84,950



**Shrewsbury Close
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Terrace
● Double Glazing
● Central Heating
● Dining Room
● Bathroom
● Separate W.C.
● Quiet Cul-De-Sac
location
● Enclosed Rear
Garden

Offers in excess of £80,000



**Stanier Close
Rushall**
● One Bedroom
Terrace
● Newly Fitted Kitchen
● Integrated
Appliances
● Lounge with Patio
● Double Glazing
● Economy Seven
Heating
● Rear Garden &
Allocated Parking

Offers in excess of £80,000



**Lichfield Road
Rushall**
● Two Bedrooms
Lounge
● Kitchen
● Economy Seven
Heating
● Family Bathroom
● Off Road Parking
● Communal
Gardens

In the Region of £75,000



**Irvine Road
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Semi-Detached
● Through Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Front & Rear
Gardens
● Detached Garage
to Rear
● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £73,500



**Mark Court, Arboretum Road
Walsall**
● One Bedroom
First Floor Flat
● Lounge
● Kitchen
● Bathroom
● Gas Central
Heating
● Communal
Grounds
● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £68,000



**Neath Way
Bloxwich**
● Three Bedroom
Mid-Terrace
● Two Reception
Rooms
● Kitchen
● Family Bathroom
● Gas Central Heating
● Front & Rear Gardens
● Off Road Parking
● NO CHAIN

£60,000

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- Modern Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
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- Security Buzzer Entry system
- Garage & Electrically Operated Gates

£87,950



GLOUCESTER ROAD, WALSALL

- ★ Four Bed Detached
- ★ Lounge & Dining Area
- ★ Kitchen & Breakfast Room
- ★ Sitting Room & Garage
- ★ Bathroom & Laundry
- ★ GCH & UPVC DG

£950pcm



COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON, WEDNESBURY

- ★ Fully Refurbished
- ★ End Terrace Property
- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Luxury Family Bathroom
- ★ Newly Fitted Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



WINDRUSH CLOSE, PELSALL

- ★ Ground Floor Apartment
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Storage Heaters
- ★ Parking Space

£495pcm



OLD BIRCHILLS, WALSALL

- ★ Terraced House
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Rear Garden

£380pcm



KINGS COURT, BRIDGE STREET, WALSALL

- ★ First Floor Flat
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ DG & Storage Heating
- ★ One Parking Space

£365pcm



INTOWN ROW, WALSALL

- ★ Converted Brewhouse
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen & Lounge
- ★ Bathroom & UPVC DG
- ★ Storage Heaters
- ★ Courtyard

£475pcm



EMERY COURT, EMERY ST, WALSALL

- ★ Second floor flat
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Re-fitted bathroom
- ★ Allocated car port

425pcm

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PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

- ★ Second Floor Flat
- ★ Lounge/Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Shower Room
- ★ Storage Heaters

£425pcm



HARRINGWORTH COURT, SHELFIELD

- ★ First Floor flat
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Lounge/dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Bathroom
- ★ DG & Storage Heaters
- ★ Garage & Parking

£420pcm

60 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall Tel: (01902) 367 367



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NEW
Wednesbury
Habs Road
An exceptional property - Detached four bedroom bungalow, completely refurbished to a high standard and offering versatile accommodation which must be viewed internally.
£250,000



NEW
Wednesbury
Wharfedale Street
An exceptional four bedroom traditional detached property presented to a very high standard with a top of the range refitted kitchen and spacious rooms throughout.
£230,000 Offers Over



NEW
West Bromwich
Bustleholme Lane
Superior extended five bedroom detached home in a sought after location. Having two reception rooms, large extended dining kitchen, conservatory. New central heating system, a early viewing is recommended.
£229,950



NEW
Wednesbury
Goldcroft Road
Traditional three bedroom detached home in quiet cul de sac location. Having the benefit of central heating and being predominantly double glazed.
£159,950



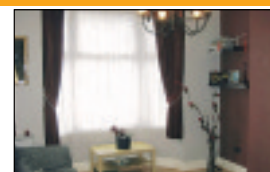
NEW
Wednesbury
Old College Drive
A quality Bellway home on a popular development in a canal-side setting. Having three bedrooms plus a study and the remainder of the builders NHBC guarantee.
£154,950



NEW
Wednesbury
Freeman Road
Extended three bedroom property with additional ground floor bedroom and wet room in annex. (Suitable for disabled person) available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having re-fitted bathroom nice kitchen and conservatory.
£114,950



NEW
Wednesbury
Franchise Street
Large Victorian end town house with three large bedrooms, two reception rooms and no upward chain.
£109,950



NEW
Wednesbury
Burs Drive
A fantastic opportunity for First Time Buyers. Two Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, £2,000 cash-back on completion. 50% Shared Ownership. No Upward Chain.
£49,995



REDUCED
West Bromwich
Whitworth Drive
QUICK POSSESSION AVAILABLE. Four Bedroom Detached home in a popular cul de sac location. Having the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing. Master bedroom having en-suite shower room, two receptions. Garage, parking and a lovely large private landscaped rear Garden.
£199,950



REDUCED
West Bromwich
Sandfield Road
Exceptional three bedroom semi detached home situated in a popular location offering good size accommodation. An internal viewing is strongly recommended.
£137,000



REDUCED
WEST BROMWICH
JAYNE CLOSE
★ Three bedroom semi detached through lounge/dining room
★ Kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired
★ Front and rear gardens
★ Garage
central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens
★ Garage
WAS £126,950 NOW £122,000



REDUCED
WEDNESBURY
HAWKSWOOD DRIVE
Sited on a corner plot within the popular Hawkswood Grange development, this modern-style three bedroom semi detached family home offers spacious accommodation in a great location. With the addition of a conservatory the property is fully centrally heated and double glazed.
£129,995



REDUCED
Wednesbury
Cherry Lane
Much improved two bedroom semi detached property in a cul de sac location on the popular Golf Links Estate. Internal viewing highly recommended.
£129,950



REDUCED
West Bromwich
Rutland Road
This well proportioned three bedroom semi detached property. Having two receptions, double glazing gas central heating, landscaped well tended gardens, substantial out-building with WC.
£119,950



REDUCED
WEDNESBURY
CRANKHALL LANE
This semi detached property in an established location in Wednesbury comprises three well proportioned bedrooms, verandah, lounge and breakfast kitchen the property is considered ideal for first time buyers.
£90,000



REDUCED
WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD
Sited in a very popular road, close to Wednesbury town centre, this well appointed traditional-style mid terraced property must be viewed internally to be fully appreciated. Being competitively priced for a quick sale, the accommodation includes two reception rooms, two bedrooms plus attic room - fantastic value.
£87,500 Offers Over



REDUCED
Walsall
Bescot Road
Located close to Junction 9 of the M6 and with excellent access to local schools and shopping, this extended semi detached home is offered for sale with no upward chain. Situated on a corner plot with ample off road parking, the extended accommodation briefly comprises of: Through lounge/dining room, extended breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, small rear garden, large garage, gated off road parking.
£109,950



REDUCED
WEDNESBURY
BILSTON ROAD
With three bedrooms, this extended semi detached property is ideally located for first time buyers.
£79,950



REDUCED
West Bromwich
Gladstone Street
Modern two bedroom first floor apartment in the Hill Top area. Ideal as first time purchase or for investment - No upward chain
£69,950

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Sedgley
01902 686868



**WILLENHALL
HAWKSWELL DRIVE**

- ★ Pleasant extended modern style semi
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Extended to the side at ground floor level
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Fitted kitchen in oven and hob
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Lounge and dining/study room
- ★ £104,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



**WILLENHALL
HAWKSWELL DRIVE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed, much improved modern style semi
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Refitted kitchen with appliances
- ★ Fitted bathroom with Jacuzzi type bath
- ★ Carpet and black paved driveway
- ★ £110,000 OFFERS



**WEDNESFIELD/WILLENHALL
WADDENSBROOK LANE**

- ★ Modern style detached bungalow
- ★ Two bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobe
- ★ Spacious lounge/diner
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ £149,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Front and rear garden, rear with paved patio
- ★ Detached garage
- ★ Large off road parking



**WILLENHALL
MILL LANE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed detached family residence
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Was £159,950 Now £156,995 NO CHAIN
- ★ Well equipped fitted kitchen
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Black paved driveway



**ESSINGTON
HIGH HILL**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed semi detached property in sought after village location
- ★ Three good sized bedrooms
- ★ UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- ★ £164,995 OFFERS IN THE REGION
- ★ L shaped lounge diner with decking
- ★ Garage & off road parking
- ★ Ideal family home



**COPPICE FARM
COTSWOLD GROVE**

- ★ Pleasant first floor maisonette
- ★ Purpose built development
- ★ One bedroom
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ £60,000 FOR 75% SHARED OWNERSHIP NO CHAIN
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Communal gardens and parking
- ★ Age restriction, 55 years old



**WILLENHALL
VICTORIA STREET**

- ★ Pleasant terraced style property
- ★ Ideal first time purchase or investment property
- ★ Gas central heating system (to be installed)
- ★ £69,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Bathroom including bath and shower
- ★ Internal viewing recommended



**WILLENHALL
WILLIAMS CLOSE**

- ★ Pleasant semi-detached property
- ★ Popular Cal-de-sec location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ £130,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN
- ★ L shaped lounge/dining room
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with shower cubicle
- ★ Garage and off road parking



**WILLENHALL, COPPICE FARM ESTATE
BOWNESS GROVE**

- ★ Modern style detached family residence in popular Coppice Farm development
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- ★ £224,950 Offers
- ★ Double and double with driveway
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom with WC
- ★ Pleasant enclosed rear garden
- ★ Internal viewing strongly recommended



**ESSINGTON
WILLOW GROVE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed extended modern style detached family residence
- ★ Popular Essington village location
- ★ Four excellent bedrooms, three with wardrobes
- ★ In side shower
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ WAS £254,950 NOW £249,995 Viewing Essential
- ★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Spacious 17th breakfast/dining kitchen
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom
- ★ Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows



**NEW INVENTION
JONES ROAD**

- ★ Deceptively spacious traditional style semi
- ★ Generous corner plot with potential to add or extend (subject to planning permission)
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Was £99,950 Now £94,950 NO CHAIN
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Majority UPVC double glazing
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Excellent potential for improvement



**NEW INVENTION
FLETCHER ROAD**

- ★ Extended two bedroom traditional style semi
- ★ Gas central heating, part UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Extended sitting room and guest cloakroom
- ★ Was £96,995 Now £93,500 NO CHAIN
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with white suite
- ★ Lounge and separate dining room
- ★ Pleasant rear garden
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Internal viewing recommended



**WILLENHALL
FIVEFIELDS ROAD**

- ★ Traditional style semi-detached property
- ★ Popular Cal-de-sec location
- ★ In need of internal modernisation with excellent potential to improve
- ★ £124,950 OFFERS - NO CHAIN
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Delightful landscaped rear garden



**COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMER GROVE**

- ★ Immediately presented modern style town house
- ★ Open aspects to front of property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- ★ Refitted bathroom with corner bath and shower area
- ★ Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ £145,000 FIXED PRICE



**WILLENHALL
SENNEEN CLOSE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Well equipped fitted dining kitchen
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Generous plot with potential to extend (subject to planning)
- ★ £169,500 OFFERS



**NEW INVENTION
SANDLAND ROAD**

- ★ Spacious four bedroom semi-detached property
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Kitchen and stone range/culley
- ★ Was £120,000 NOW £117,995 - NO CHAIN
- ★ Bathroom with white suite and shower
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ A family home offering excellent potential
- ★ No chain
- ★ Excellent potential to improve



**WILLENHALL
WESTFIELD ROAD**

- ★ Traditional style semi detached property in pleasant location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating system
- ★ Spacious 20th lounge
- ★ £104,950 NOW £99,995 NO CHAIN
- ★ 14ft galley kitchen
- ★ Pleasant gardens
- ★ In need of some internal modernisation
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Excellent potential to improve



**NEW INVENTION
BRERETON ROAD**

- ★ Traditional style and town house in popular location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Was £94,950 NOW £89,995
- ★ 19th Through lounge
- ★ Separate dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen in oven, hob, microwave and washing machine
- ★ Ideal first time purchase



**COPPICE FARM
NEVIS GROVE**

- ★ Pleasant modern style semi-detached property
- ★ Open aspects to front of property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- ★ Refitted bathroom with corner bath and shower area
- ★ Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing
- ★ Garage and ample parking
- ★ WAS £125,000 NOW £119,950



**WILLENHALL
FARMHOUSE ROAD, CORNER BENTLEY LANE**

- ★ Spacious modern style detached residence
- ★ Pleasantly appointed accommodation
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Refitted bathroom with ex-side shower room
- ★ Lounge and dining room
- ★ WAS £169,995 NO CHAIN
- ★ Fitted kitchen in oven and hob
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Gas central heating, double glazed windows



**WILLENHALL
NOOSE LANE**

- ★ Three bedroom and town house style property
- ★ Gas warm air central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ Was £79,995 Now £74,995 NO CHAIN
- ★ Lounge and dining kitchen
- ★ Downstairs WC
- ★ A family home offering excellent potential
- ★ Ideal first time buy or buy to let



**WILLENHALL
NEWLANDS CLOSE**

- ★ Pleasant first floor maisonette
- ★ Popular and convenient location
- ★ Cal-de-sec position
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ UPVC DG
- ★ Was £74,950 NOW £69,950 NO CHAIN
- ★ Windows
- ★ 13ft rear lounge
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage to block to the side



**WILLENHALL
WILLENHALL ROAD**

- ★ Beautifully presented and improved property offering traditional features and modern living
- ★ Three spacious bedrooms
- ★ Generous lounge & separate sitting
- ★ £99,950 OFFERS IN THE REGION
- ★ Refitted dining kitchen
- ★ Double glazing & gas central heating
- ★ Refitted bathroom
- ★ Large established rear garden
- ★ Heating essential



**WILLENHALL
UPLANDS AVENUE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached bungalow
- ★ Cal-de-sec position
- ★ Two bedrooms and bath room
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ £145,000 OFFERS
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Spacious 26th lounge/dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen in oven and hob
- ★ Generous landscaped side and rear



**WILLENHALL
UPLANDS ROAD**

- ★ Spacious extended traditional style detached bungalow
- ★ Corner plot position
- ★ Two bedrooms and bath room
- ★ Majority UPVC double glazing
- ★ £140,000 OFFERS - NO CHAIN
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ 18th extended lounge
- ★ Separate sitting room
- ★ Double garage and off road parking



**WILLENHALL
SANDBEDS ROAD**

- ★ Beautifully presented traditional style detached bungalow
- ★ Spacious extended character accommodation two bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Extended kitchen in oven and hob
- ★ £179,995 OFFERS, FINAL REDUCTION FOR QUICK SALE - NO CHAIN
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Lovely established rear garden
- ★ Ample off road parking and garage Must be viewed



**WILLENHALL
SANDBEDS ROAD**

- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Fitted bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage to block to the side



**NEW INVENTION
GLAMIS ROAD**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed extended link detached property
- ★ Popular location Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Was £174,950 Now Offers in Excess of £169,950
- ★ Ground floor dining room and kitchen extension
- ★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Suitable 29th garage with driveway to the fore
- ★ Generous rear garden with open aspect



**WILLENHALL
GLAMIS ROAD**

- ★ Pleasant extended four bedroom detached family residence
- ★ Popular Hadley Heath location
- ★ Corner plot position
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ £169,950 OFFERS
- ★ Majority UPVC double glazing
- ★ Extended lounge and hallway
- ★ 20th kitchen length garage
- ★ Lovely established gardens to front, rear and side



**SHORT HEATH
RIDING WAY**

- ★ Pleasant three bedroom semi in popular location
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ UPVC double glazing
- ★ 17th lounge with utility area
- ★ WAS £139,950 Now £134,950
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ No related chain



**WILLENHALL
YORK AVENUE**

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Popular County Bridge location
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazing
- ★ £133,500 OFFERS
- ★ Excellent refitted kitchen with appliances
- ★ Fitted bathroom with shower
- ★ Black paved driveway



**WILLENHALL
YORK AVENUE**

- ★ UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Black paved driveway



**SUMMER HAYES
EDINBURGH DRIVE**

- ★ Considerably improved semi detached bungalow
- ★ Cal-de-sec position
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ £147,500 Now £145,995
- ★ External UPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Lounge and dining/sitting room
- ★ Garage and black paved driveway
- ★ Pleasant rear garden



**WILLENHALL
EWHURST CLOSE**

- ★ Pleasant extended four bedroom detached family residence
- ★ Popular Hadley Heath location
- ★ Corner plot position
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ £169,950 OFFERS
- ★ Majority UPVC double glazing
- ★ Extended lounge and hallway
- ★ 20th kitchen length garage
- ★ Lovely established gardens to front, rear and side



**NEW INVENTION
LICHFIELD ROAD**

- ★ End town houses style property
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ 17th fitted dining kitchen
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with white suite
- ★ Ideal first time purchase
- ★ No related chain
- ★ WAS £94,950 NOW £89,950

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Pommel Close, Walsall **NEW**



• A 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
 • No Upward Chain
 • Double Glazed (as specified)
 • Storm Porch & Lounge
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£69,995**

Banks Street, Willenhall **REDUCED**



• MUST BE SEEN • PRESTIGIOUS STREET • A 4 bedroom detached family home on the sought after Banks Street. This splendid and spacious property has the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property includes a large lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, off road parking, a large garden, and a garage. VIEWING: 01902 633323 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£189,995**

Fennere Close, Park Hall, Wolverhampton



• SIMPLY MUST BE VIEWED • NEW CARPETS IN MASTER BEDROOM, STAIRS & LANDING • Much improved, extended & upgraded 4 bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. This superb family home is located in a quiet cul-de-sac & briefly comprises reception hall, spacious lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with integrated appliances), dining room, conservatory, 4 bedrooms, (master with shower cubicle) re-fitted family bathroom, rear garden, create print off road parking for around 6 vehicles & garage. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE. Viewing 01902 633323 OFFERS AROUND: **£169,995**

Hyett Way, Bilston **NEW**



• A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
 • Gas Central Heating
 • UPVC Double Glazing
 • Excellent First Time Purchase
 Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£84,995**

St Peter Croft, Wednesbury **NEW**



• A Sizeable 4 Bedroom Detached Home
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 • Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
 • Reception Hall & Guest W.C.
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£249,995**

Dillways Lane, Willenhall



Three bedroom semi with gas central heating & double glazing. Convenient for Bilston & Willenhall, accommodation comprises porch, reception hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, rear porch, 3 beds, bathroom/w.c., front & rear gardens, single garage. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£97,500**

Essington Road, Willenhall



• MUST LANDLORD OR FIRST TIME BUYER • A first floor 2 bedroom flat having the benefit of UPVC double glazing. The property further comprises communal entrance with intercom, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, shower room and 2 double bedrooms. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£69,950**

Gosport Close, Stow Heath, Wolverhampton



Modern semi-detached BUNGALOW, NO CHAIN, 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, deceptively spacious, wheelchair friendly, central heating, double glazing, entrance porch, hall, lounge, fitted beech kitchen with integral appliances, Re-fitted bath, shower room and 2 double bedrooms. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£125,000**

Hill Street, Essington



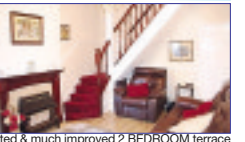
A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain, double glazing and gas central heating. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with additional shower cubicle, off road parking, detached garage, rear converted into office/laundry and good sized rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£129,995**

Victoria Street, Willenhall **NEW**



VIEWING RECOMMENDED - Immaculately presented & much improved 2 BEDROOM terrace house having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Further comprises, lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen, re-fitted bathroom and rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£89,995**

Chetwynd Close, Burslem, Walsall



3 Bedroom Semi • Central Heating • Double Glazing • Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen with Integrated Appliances • Lounge with Feature Fireplace • Fitted Bathroom • Garage & Side Drive • Front & Rear Gardens OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£125,000**

Midland Road, Darlaston



3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House • Extended • No Upward Chain • Central Heating • UPVC Double Glazing • Garage & Drive • Corner Plot with Scope for Additional Parking • Hall • Lounge • 17th Breakfast Kitchen • Downstairs Bathroom • Front, Side & Rear Gardens OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£94,950**

Victoria Street, Willenhall



3 x brand new 3 bedroom luxury modern terrace family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted interior alarm and with no upward chain. These excellent properties briefly comprise, reception hallway, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms (master with ensuite), front, back & rear gardens, rear garden with detached parking space to rear. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£99,995**

Uplands Avenue, Willenhall **NEW**



3 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW, benefiting central heating, partial double glazing & no upward chain. Further comprising entrance porch, hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, verandah, garage, garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£135,000**

Broad Lane, Essington



• MUST BE VIEWED • A good sized detached bungalow on a nice sized plot having the benefit of sought after location, double glazing and gas central heating. This splendid property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, through entrance, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, utility room, front and rear gardens, block paved driveway for several vehicles and access. VIEWING: 01902 633323 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£229,950**

Gipsy Lane, Willenhall



Three bedroom semi detached having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, lounge, off road parking, garage and rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£109,995**

Trentham Avenue, Willenhall



An upgraded and improved 2 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The well presented property further comprises, reception hall, spacious lounge, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, off road parking and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£114,950**

Pooles Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall **NEW**



3 Bedroom Semi • No Upward Chain • Central Heating • Double Glazing • Entrance Porch • Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen • Downstairs Fitted Bathroom • Verandah • Drive & Narrow R. Double Garage • Enclosed Garden OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£99,950**

Temple Bar, Willenhall



A two bedroom end of terrace home having the benefit of double glazing, electric central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, fitted kitchen, lounge, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden (used for secure off road parking). OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£65,000**

Stow Heath Lane, Wolverhampton **NEW**



3 BEDROOM semi-detached bungalow overlooking East Park, benefiting gas central heating & upvc double glazing & offering no upward chain. Further comprising entrance porch, hall, lounge with feature fireplace, breakfast kitchen, bathroom, front drive & rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£110,000**

Taryn Drive, Primrose Gardens, Darlaston



• Link-Detached House
 • 3 Bedrooms
 • Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)
 • Lounge with Feature Fireplace
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£129,950**

Walsall Ladbury Road, Yew Tree Estate



• A Double Glazed 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
 • Gas Central Heating (where specified)
 • Double Glazing (where specified)
 • No Upward Chain
 OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£119,995**

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Darvel Road, Willenhall



• MUST BE VIEWED • A three bedroom extended link detached family home having the benefit of fitted interior alarm, double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The well maintained property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, kitchen drive, utility room, three bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom with shower, garage, off road parking for 5 vehicles and rear garden. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£142,500**

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall



Luxury 2 bedroom spacious brand new apartments having the benefit of UPVC double and triple glazing, gas central heating and fitted interior alarm. These splendid larger than average properties briefly comprise, reception hallway, good size lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (each with en-suite), family bathroom and allocated parking spaces. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£75,000**

Arnwood Close, Walsall



A good size 3 bedroom detached bungalow on a generous sized plot having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted interior alarm and no upward chain. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking for several vehicles, caravans etc and a separate garage. OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: 01902 633323 **£164,995**

Station Street, Darlaston



• A Period 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Home
 • Well Positioned for both Walsall & Darlaston Town Centres
 • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (where specified)
 • Lounge
 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: Viewing: 0121 505 3533 **£72,000**

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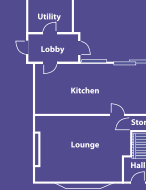


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Wolverhampton Road West, Walsall



£190,000

A three bedroom detached home situated on a cul-de-sac presented in excellent order and offering a very special kitchen/family room extension, three reception rooms, bathroom and gardens.

Wolverhampton Road West, Walsall



£125,000

Extended two bedroom double fronted detached bungalow must be viewed to appreciate its deceptive size, lounge, kitchen diner, utility, shower room, central heating and double glazing.

Sandbeds Road, Willenhall



Offers Over £80,000

A two bedroom terraced home comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear driveway parking and rear garden. Central heating and double glazing



Coppice Farm Way, Willenhall



£177,995

A three bedroom detached home situated on Coppice Farm comprising lounge, extended L shaped kitchen/diner, guest cloakroom, utility room, bathroom, garage, driveway and offering no chain

Walkers Fold, Short Heath



£210,000 NEW

A four bedroom, two bathroom detached home situated in Short Heath. Offering a garage and driveway. Cul de sac location. Viewing essential

Rosehill, Willenhall



£135,000 NEW

Three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a generous plot and presented in immaculate order. Offering refitted kitchen and bathrooms, two reception rooms, bathroom and garden

Cemetery Road, Willenhall



£79,950 NEW

Charming Victorian three bedroom home. Minton flooring, original fireplace, two reception rooms, town centre location, rear garden and no chain

Longwood Rise, Willenhall



£140,000

A three bedroom semi-detached home situated on a generous corner plot. A popular road just off Stroud Avenue and offering kitchen/diner, lounge with double aspect and detached garage.

Magness Crescent, Willenhall



£140,000

A three bedroom semi-detached home comprising of lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, sun room, bathroom, rear garden, garage and driveway. No chain

Crab Lane, Willenhall



£195,000 REDUCED

A four bedroom link-detached home situated on the extremely sought after "Crab Lane". Also benefiting from a garage, further workshop and both an upstairs and downstairs shower room.

Brownshore Lane, Essington



£237,500 REDUCED

Four bedroom detached offering spacious rooms and presented in immaculate order throughout, comprising cloakroom, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, ensuite, bathroom, garage and driveway.

High Road, Short Heath



£150,000 REDUCED

Three bedroom semi-detached been completely refurbished to a high standard and extended to the rear and side. Offering lounge, L-Shaped kitchen/diner, two bathrooms, garage and driveway

37 Keasden Grove, Willenhall WV13 1HL,



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We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £135,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Dixons 53 High Road, WILLEHALL, West Midlands, WV12 4JR, 01902 634497

Bloxwich Road North, Short Heath



£135,000

A three bedroom semi-detached comprising of two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen, utility, bathroom, rear garden and driveway providing off road parking. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing

Moxley Road, Darlaston



Offers over £100,000

A three bedroom semi-detached home comprising guest cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, spacious rear garden and off road parking

Alton Avenue, Willenhall



£129,950 REDUCED

Extended three bedroom semi detached must be viewed comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, rear garage and gardens to the front and rear. Viewing recommended

Broadwaters Road, Wednesbury



£85,000 REDUCED

A two bedroom semi-detached home situated on a corner plot with landscaped front and rear gardens. Vendor is motivated to sell. Dont miss out on this one its too nice

Mill Street, Darlaston



£76,000 REDUCED

This modern style end terrace briefly comprising, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, garden and parking at rear

Ada Wrighton Close, New Invention



£160,000 REDUCED

Three bedroom link-detached home situated on a cul-de-sac in New Invention comprising downstairs toilet, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, utility, shower room and rear garden. Viewing essential

Milcote Drive, Willenhall



£180,000 REDUCED

A four bedroom detached home situated on a cul-de-sac comprising lounge, extended family room/kitchen, bathroom, garage and gardens

Princethorpe Road, Willenhall



£128,000 REDUCED

A stunningly presented three bedroom terraced home which has been extensively improved by its current owner. In excellent order throughout and offering contemporary landscaped gardens. No chain

Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall



Offers Over £90,000 REDUCED

Modern throughout & in a cul-de-sac location convenient to Willenhall town & J10 M6. This property is considered an ideal FTB & viewing comes highly recommended on this little-gem. Two bedroom terrace, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and rear garden



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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Panoramic vistas opening up for Citroën drivers

By Peter Carroll

DRAMATIC design, scorching performance and hi-tech features can all help sell a car but sometimes the homelier qualities of comfort and economy can be just as persuasive.

While the motoring press loves to focus on a car's handling and roadholding abilities,

the fact remains that many drivers, especially in these recessionary times, are more interested in how much they are going to have to fork out each month to run it.

And for this group of motorists, it may well be worth taking a look at Citroën's C3 Airdream+.

It's a five-door supermini

with an economical 1.6 litre diesel under the bonnet and a surprisingly high level of comfort features.

The French car has friendly, curvy looks and despite its relatively compact dimensions, boasts a spacious cabin and class-leading boot of 300 litres.

The car's designers were told to concentrate on quality and comfort and came up with a stylish, sophisticated interior.

This mid-range model also offers outstandingly low running costs thanks to its low carbon dioxide emissions of 99g/km, meaning owners will never have to pay vehicle excise duty again – unless the government changes the tax goalposts again, of course.

The C3's benefit in kind rating of 13 per cent is attractively low, while the car is capable of returning up to 74.3mpg on the combined cycle.

Insurance is a reasonable group four (or 14 out of 50 in the new classification) while servicing has to be carried out every 12,500 miles compared with 20,000 for some of the C3 petrol models.

It acquires itself

respectably on the road but is set up for comfort rather than performance – though a 0-60mph time of just over 11 seconds is not to be sniffed at.

Ride comfort is generally good but the car does tend to roll through corners when pushed.

Despite its solid eco credentials and low running costs, the C3 does have an ace up its sleeve in the form of its "Zenith" panoramic window.

This is a huge piece of glass which stretches from the bonnet half way back across the car's roof.

And the really clever bit is Citroën has slotted the sun visors onto a movable ceiling which can be slid back to reveal the panoramic roof in all its glory.

It all makes for a superbly airy feeling to the cabin, with excellent levels of visibility thanks to the slim A-pillars, though with all that glass the car can get quite hot in sunny weather. Citroën has thought about this and has progressively tinted the top 10 inches of glass but you'll still be needing the aircon in summer.

The Airdream+ is based on VTR+ specifications and aims to show that economical motoring does not mean having to forego creature comforts.

There are plenty of standard features such as Bluetooth and MP3 connectivity.

There's no alarm as standard on this C3, however, and ESP is an optional extra which

"The car's designers were told to concentrate on quality and comfort"

probably explains why it has a four, rather than five-star safety rating.

The C3 range starts at around £11,000 but the list price of the Airdream+ is just over £15,000.

Those who want a more designer feel should look at Citroën's DS3 instead, which is also better to drive, while motorists requiring more space should consider a C3 Picasso people carrier instead.

Each is available for the same sort of money – but neither will be as cheap to run as the frugal C3.



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*Models featured: (1) Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDI at £17,650 with optional Machine Silver Metallic Paint at £445 included. (2) Hyundai Santa Fe Premium 2.2 CRDi 4WD 5 seat at £24,995 with optional Sleek Silver Metallic Paint at £445 included. Prices are for cars ordered between 1st April and 30th June 2011. All vehicles are subject to availability at participating Hyundai dealers. Warranty terms and exclusions apply – see www.hyundai.co.uk/buyersguide/Warranty or ask your local dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG(1/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDI: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO₂ Emissions 158 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG(1/100km) for Hyundai Santa Fe Premium 2.2 5dr: Urban 32.1 (8.8), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO₂ Emissions 176 g/km.

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2006/56 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Club 3dr Hatch, gold, 28300 miles.....	£6000
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One of three Autosal's showrooms locally, the Skoda specialists have been based at Burntwood Business Park in Attwood Road, for three years since switching from premises in Cannock.

The company also has a Suzuki dealership in Bridgtown, which has been in operation in Progress Drive since 2008 and a branch in Bilston that deals with both Skodas and Suzukis.

Venture

However, it is not just these models that Audoulet can cater for. A new MoT year is imminent and once open will mean that all makes and models of cars can be tested. Service of all makes and models already takes place, while Volkswagen and Audis can be tested at Skoda prices.

Also joining the ranks is sales executive, Adrian Foster, Motability Specialist, who is happy to be back working with Roy Thompson again.

Adrian Foster began his working life at Vauxhall in 1987 stayed until 1990 before moving to join Roy at Lea. Hall Motors in 1990 selling Skoda

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The Peugeot Partner Tepee makes great use of all available space



There's plenty of room in the back



The comfortable cab has all mod cons, while the back seats fold down flat

I make no secret about it; I am a car snob. I like cars that excite, get the pulse racing and make me feel good when I am driving them.

However that's great for the pleasure driving but for other times I do have to be practical and need to have a vehicle that can carry everything including the kitchen sink.

I use an old Land Rover that has served me well for nearly 12 years. I can see no reason to part with her until something major goes wrong. But, with the recent increases in the price of fuel, something with better consumption is required. So when I got the Peugeot Partner Tepee's keys I looked at it with renewed interest.

With vehicles of this type it is difficult for me to wax lyrical about the curve of the bonnet or the flowing lines that glide effortlessly along the sides of the vehicle to the boot.

No, more accurately the Tepee looks a lot like a van with windows and it is only when you get to the inside

you can see the effort Peugeot has gone to with the creature comforts.

However, please don't take this as a criticism. Vehicles of this type are designed to be load haulers and this one is no exception.

Sitting

Firstly if you go the cavernous boot there is a really useful parcel shelf, which will actually act as the name suggests and you can put nearly 70kilos of weight on it.

Below this there is boot which would probably eat up most of a football team's kit in one sitting and for a family going on holiday there would be no need to have the kids or Auntie Flo sitting with a case on their lap.

The rear seats also have the sort of legroom that you just don't get in most small cars, so carrying four adults with their entire luggage in comfort, is also not a problem for the Tepee.

Up front the seats are surprisingly comfortable and have enough adjustment to fit almost anyone with ease. Sticking with the interior though, the one thing I

noticed almost immediately is the amount of storage locker cubby holes and generally oodles of places where you can stick all you nick-nacks so that they are not rolling round on the floors or residing on the back-seat, resulting in the universal phrase: "Oh you can just throw that on the parcel shelf."

So what is it like to drive? If you remember my car snobbery comment at the beginning I was dreading writing this part as my stereotypes had kicked in.

However, prejudice aside the Tepee drives really well and does not handle anything like a van but a competent small car with surprising levels of road holding which I had not anticipated.

Respectable

Added to this a very respectable fuel consumption of nearly 50mpg was achieved so all in all the Tepee is a great practical vehicle.

It is ideally suited to those with families but also would suit anyone with a hobby or need to carry cavernous amounts of kit in comfort.

One thing though, and please keep this to yourself... I really liked it!

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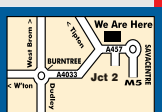
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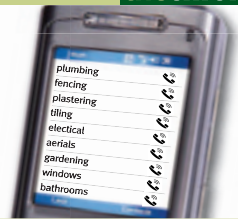
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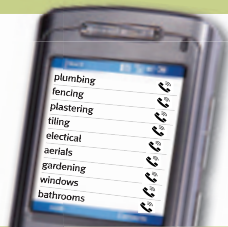
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Five-star Taylor fires Pitmen to a treble



Hednesford Town Under-11s celebrate a treble success

Taylor Allen struck five goals as Hednesford Town Under-11s wrapped up trophy treble with a 7-0 win over Wyrley Juniors in the Walsall Junior Youth League Cup final.

The victory completed the team's second successive league and cup double to add to their earlier success in the R&T National Trophy.

And it sealed a hat-trick of cup triumphs as they lifted the trophy for the third year in a row.

There was a goal each for Mitch Candlin and Jordan Dodd to complete a comfortable victory in a one-sided final.

Ben Southall scored the only goal as Bush Scorpions defeated Cresswell Wanderers to reach the quarter-

finals of the under-10s cup. He converted a cross from Sam Davies to seal victory for his side.

Goalkeeper Liam McDermott was the hero as Bush Scorpions Under-10s claimed a 2-1 win on penalties to knock out FC Premier in the quarter-finals of the Charlie Rushton Shield.

Sam Davies's equaliser levelled the tie at 1-1 at full-time and McDermott, who has earlier been struck in the face by the ball, stepped up to make two penalty saves in the shoot-out.

Taylor Evans and Rhys Burbridge scored from the spot for Scorpions.

Two goals direct from free-kicks gave Ashmore Park a 2-0 win over Wyrley Tigers in the Under-10s Walsall Junior Youth League Second Half Cup.

Wood enjoy successful season



Walsall Wood Under-16s are all smiles following a successful campaign that saw them lift the Division One title in the Lichfield & District League. Wood are looking to strengthen their squad for next season's push for glory at under-17 level while the side will also compete in the Midland Floodlit League. Interested players should contact the club on 07973375146.

CRICKET

Blox come away with a losing draw

SWINDON 1ST XI 282-9 BLOXWICH 1ST XI 227 - 6 LOSING DRAW FOR BLOXWICH

Bloxwich arrived at Swindon's ground in high spirits with hope for another victory. Danny King winning the toss for the 5th game this season decided to put the opposition in to bat.

There was a slow start to the first innings with the run rate 57 for 2 wickets off 12 overs, but Bloxwich soon turned things around with wickets falling thick and fast.

This was helped by the fielders coming together with a couple of superb catches from stand-in keeper Andrew McAree, Danny King and John Wiggin. This was all great support for bowlers Aaron Alcock, James Lewis and Thom Fellows who all took wickets. Leaving the score and the end of the first innings 282 runs for 9 wickets off 50 overs.

Bloxwich's second innings started off amazingly as they kept the run rate above the rate in the first innings with 68 runs for 0 wickets off 12 overs.

However, it wasn't looking promising half way through the second innings as wickets began to fall, but Bloxwich still held their heads high and battled on with great performances from Jeremy Scott (42), Thom Fellows (17), Andrew McAree (10), Stuart Clarke (16 no). The stars of the show would most definitely have to be John Darby with his 50 no and Danny King with his massive 75.

BLOXWICH 2ND XI 275-4 BEAT SWINDON 274-8 BY 5 WICKETS

On a day for the batsmen, a club record 4th wicket partnership of 203 between Ed Dawes and stand-in skipper Kelton Scott was to prove decisive for the Stafford Road men.

Having asked Swindon to bat first, Si Langston made an early breakthrough, however this was as good as it got for the home attack as they struggled to bowl with any control, allowing all the visiting batsmen to make the most of the conditions. With the scoreboard racing over, the only real highlight was a maiden five wicket haul for Chris Moseley (5-82). In reply, Bloxwich slipped to 32-3 as Swindon made more of the new ball, however with Scott and Dawes at the crease the game was far from over. Initially happy to take the 1s and 2s available, Scott soon started to find the ropes with ease allowing Dawes to continue on his merry way.

With the partnership growing and the tension mounting, the Swindon attack simply had no answer to the duo, as there partnership passed the 200 mark. It was only when Dawes (79) who had earlier recorded his maiden 50 for the Club, top edged an attempted pull to square leg did Swindon briefly see a chance of getting back into the game.

However, these were soon dispelled as Richard Golder (18no) together with Scott saw Bloxwich home in the 49th over. Scott finishing unbeaten on a brilliant 145 not out.

FOOTBALL

Girls football team brings in triple trophy success



Back row, from left Hafsa Nawaz, Kimberly King, Alisha Arthur, Reanna Hordell, Sabah Khan. Front row Left Jessica Bate, Becky Blythe, Becky Hayward, Becky Rogers.

A Walsall girls school have been celebrating a triple footballing success.

Alumwell Junior School girls football team won the Walsall Schools FA Girls Cup on May 7 then less than a week later on May 12 they beat The Lindens in the league championship.

The girls then went on last weekend to their third tournament in two weeks at Brownhills Community School making it through to the finals.

The match went into extra time and with only minutes left Jessica Bate scored for Alumwell Jrs to win the Brownhills Community School tournament

with a 1-0 game and bag player of the match into the bargain. This brought a third trophy for the cabinet and medals were awarded to each player.

The school in Primley Avenue, Walsall has been celebrating the outstanding success of the girls bringing home three medals each, The Cup and two shields.

The girls have enjoyed a successful season playing 25 matches while conceding only three goals thanks to goalkeeper Becky Hayward and the Alumwell defence.

Team captain Reanna Hordell has lead her team

mates to glory in what has been a historic year in girls football. However, they have recently played their last game as a team as some of the year 6 girls move on but the year 5 players will be back in action again next year.

All the girls thanked their coach Meg Gallahan and her assistant Diane Wright for all their hard work and patience in training.

Sharon Bate, a parent of one of the winning youngsters, said: "The girls have worked very hard towards this, coached by Meg Gallahan who plays a big part at the school."

Scorpions make their way into final through a single goal

Brewrod Juniors 2
Bush Scorpions 3 U10s

A thrilling game that saw the Div 2 leaders unseated and the Scorpions progress into the final. Brewrod were strong and took the game to the Scorpions.

They scored an early goal putting the Scorpions on the back foot. In the second half the scorpions came back with goals from Taylor Evans and Ben Southall.

Taking the Scorpions to a one goal lead,

which on the face of it with the clock ticking away looked just enough.

However, a good goal from a set piece in the final minute of the match saw Brewrod equalise and take the match to extra time.

As ever though the set pieces saved the Scorpions and a late goal from a corner by Taylor Evans saw Ben Southall steer the ball into the Brewrod net taking the Scorpions into the final.

Bush Scorpions 0
Ashmore Park Rangers 5 U10s

A score line which did not flatter the Scorpions who were up against the Div One winners and despite a rugged defence the scorpions went into the second half 2-0 down and looking for a fight back.

Sadly their heads dropped and APR put a further three goals past the keeper to seal a deserved win for themselves. The Scorpions finished as runners-up.

Looking for new players

Chasetown Scholars under-11s are looking to strengthen their squad in preparation for next season.

Anyone interested in playing should call Steve Molineux on 07818 573915.

There were some handsome wins in Division One, high fliers Sportif Beacon leading the way with a 7-2 crushing of Beacon Boys, Walsall All-stars smashed Pelsall Youth 6-1, whilst Steau Neaderast also hit their opponents for six.

Anyone who wants to join the leagues in Walsall can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net.

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sport



**GIRLS IN TRIPLE
FOOTBALL
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Page 55



LEGEND WALKER IS CLOSE TO SIGNING

**I would be
keen to talk
to boss says
Devaney**

walsall@expressandstar.co.uk

Walsall legend Jimmy Walker is close to pledging his future to the Saddlers after holding talks with boss Dean Smith.

The goalkeeper was offered a new deal at the end of the season and is set to follow skipper Andy Butler by committing himself to the club.



Jimmy Walker

Should he sign, he will be on the brink of becoming the Saddlers' record appearance holder as he stands on 505 games – 25 short of Colin Harrison's all-time total.

Smith revealed he has held positive talks with Walker and is confident of tying him down for another year.

"I'm in talks with James Walker and hopefully we're very close to agreeing something," he said.

"I knew Jimmy from before, he's a good lad and did really well for us last season. He's got more to offer and I think he believes that as well."

"Hopefully we can sort something out with Jimmy as soon as possible and he can commit himself for another year."

"Then we'll see where he goes from there – it might be a year but he might be capable of doing another after that."

Walker was runner-up in the supporters' Player of the Year poll after returning in October following a six-year absence.

Motivated

He helped the Saddlers to the Great Escape in League One and Smith insisted, despite the former West Ham man turning 38 in July, he hasn't lost any drive.

"He's a motivated lad and he really enjoyed this year," he said.

"The thing for him is he wants to see us kick on and build on the momentum created."

"I've said to all the players I don't want to be in the position where we're fighting for survival again – I want us to move on and carry the momentum."

But Smith doesn't believe Walker is eyeing Harrison's appearance record yet because he is too focused on his game.

He said: "I don't know with Jimmy – maybe, maybe not."

"I think his sole focus is on playing football. He enjoys the banter and enjoyed last season."

"He's certainly got the hunger there."

"I had a chat with him during a round of golf and he hasn't lost the drive as he beat me on the last hole!"

Bonser backing scheme claim

Steve Jenkins has claimed he has the support of Saddlers chairman Jeff Bonser as the campaign to convince Walsall Council to buy the Bank's Stadium gathers pace.

The music producer and lifelong Saddler has spoken to the owner and written to all 60 councillors outlining the details and the benefits of owning the up-for-sale ground.

The council would earn £477,000 rent a year from the Saddlers – well above anything they would pay back if they took out a loan to buy the ground.

Supporters' groups have also penned a letter for fans to sign and send to their councillor with the club united behind Jenkins' vision.

"I have spoken with Mr Bonser on behalf of the fans to gain more detailed information regarding the sale and I am convinced he is wholeheartedly behind the campaign for Walsall Council to buy the site," said Jenkins, a former MD of Jive Records.

"DTZ, the selling agents, have already received serious enquiries from interested purchasers and believe the site could be sold in the very near future. Walsall Council are being given a golden opportunity to invest in the town's flagship stadium, which will ensure that Walsall can play its football in the town for decades to come."

Bonser has offered a concession to the council – allowing them to work closely with the club should they own the ground.

Council leader Mike Bird dismissed the idea without discussion but Jenkins insisted it is viable.

Lockmen's FA Vase team are honoured



From left, players after receiving their runner-up medals, action from the match and Willenhall fans enjoying their day out

Wembley stars share memories 30 years on

Walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

The first West Midlands team to reach the final of the FA Vase were honoured 30 years after making history on the hallowed turf of Wembley.

Nine of the 13-strong Willenhall Town squad returned to the club to receive commemorative medals and watch a DVD recording of the match they lost 3-2 after extra-time to North East outfit Whickham on April 25, 1981.

Captain and centre-half Brian Fox, now 62 and living in Charter Close, Norton Canes, said: "It is great to meet up again with so many of the lads."

"We took 7,500 fans with us to Wembley all those years ago and the memories are as sharp as ever. It feels like it happened yesterday."

"You never forget an experience like that. Many professional footballers have long careers without ever playing at Wembley."

"I felt so proud leading the team out there and receiving our runners-up medals from Sir Matt Busby. It was one of the three best days of my life." One person who loved watching a recording of the game was Stephen Newton, the goalkeeper who was stretched off after being knocked out in the first half when the Lockmen were leading 2-1.

Temple

Now a 51-year-old father of two living in Newark, Nottinghamshire, who was 21 the day before the big match, confessed: "This is the first time I have seen it in full. All I remember was getting a blow on the side of the temple after 30 minutes and being taken off to hospital. Everything was just a blur but nothing could spoil a day like that."

"There were no substitute goalkeepers in those days and so one of the forwards had to get between the posts after I left the field."

Right winger Bobby Peck, aged 50, from Wychall Drive, Bushbury, whose extra-time own goal handed Whickham victory, said: "I can still see it going into the net."

"It was the biggest game of my life and a fantastic experience – except for that goal."

Tony Turpin, club secretary at the time, recalled: "It was the biggest moment in the history of the town, let alone the club."

"The whole place shut down for the day and it is great that the occasion is still remembered and celebrated so many years later, even though the result was a terrible disappointment."

Two of the Willenhall Town side emigrated to Australia and Paul Stringer, scorer of one of their goals, died in 1998. Their manager Barry Stobart was not well enough to the celebrations.

Don Smith, a 56-year-old father-of-three from Bloomfield Street North, Halesowen, who scored Willenhall's second goal, said: "I will never forget the noise of the crowd when we came out of the tunnel onto the pitch."



Members of Willenhall Town's 1981 FA Vase final side enjoy a 30th anniversary reunion, including, front, Maureen Stobart (wife of manager Barry Stobart), from Sedgley, and team captain Brian Fox, of Norton Canes

Martin Devaney has said he would be happy to return to Walsall.

The winger had a successful loan spell with the Saddlers last year and is a free agent after being let go by Barnsley.

Boss Dean Smith is primed for a summer rebuilding job after releasing nine of last season's squad, including club captain Darren Byfield. Devaney made five appearances for the Saddlers, scoring once, last year before a hamstring injury in November's 1-1 FA Cup draw at Fleetwood cut the second month of his loan short.

But he admitted he would be keen to talk to Smith and would consider a Banks's Stadium comeback.

He said: "Absolutely, you never discount anyone and Walsall might come in with an offer I can't refuse but we'll have to wait and see. If Dean calls we'll have a discussion and take it from there."

"I really enjoyed my spell at Walsall but I have to keep my cards close to my chest and there are clubs interested. It's a long summer now."

Opportunity

"I came in under Chris (Hutchings) and Martin (O'Connor) and I thank them for giving me the opportunity which put me back on the map."

"I spoke to Jon Macken the other week and he said all the lads have been buzzing and Dean put them in a position to keep them in the league."

Devaney, who made just seven outings for Barnsley last term, has kept tabs on the Saddlers since he left and admitted he was impressed by Smith.

"I'd been in contact with Jon and wished him all the best and asked him to pass it on to the rest of the lads," he said. "They did all the hard work and hopefully now Dean can build for the future. They have let some go so it's a building job for him over the summer."

The 30-year-old admitted the Saddlers' Great Escape could prove key in any decision as he won't drop to League Two.

"All the clubs interested in me are in the Championship or League One – League Two would have been a no-go," added Devaney.

● The Saddlers will go to Cheltenham for a friendly on Tuesday, July 26 (7.45pm).

Wrack backs Dean's power

Darren Wrack is backing Dean Smith's pulling power as the boss bids to launch his Walsall rebuilding job. The former Saddlers star reckons the boss' achievement of keeping Walsall in League One will attract future stars.

Wrack returned to the Bank's Stadium for the recent match between Walsall and Wolves All-Stars in aid of Sands, a charity secretary Dan Mole is supporting.

Wrack insists Smith, who guided Walsall from the bottom of the table to safety, will be a manager players want to play for.

"Any player who wants to look for a manager who is ambitious doesn't have to look further than Dean because of what he has done in five months," said the 35-year-old, who made 383 appearances for Walsall.

"What he has done in his first job as a manager is a fantastic achievement."

"I'd written them off at Christmas – I couldn't see them getting out of it. But they got over the line and that was the most important thing. It's been a success for him and that's attractive to players."

Smith released nine players last week, including club captain Darren Byfield, but ex-midfielder Wrack believes he will not have to look hard for replacements.

He said: "Some of the top clubs in League One still pay some very good wages but more players will fear for their future because more are being released."

"That's where the clubs can get a bargain. They will look at five players for every position and say to one 'look, we've chosen you, this is what we can offer and if you don't like it we'll go elsewhere'."

A crowd of 544 watched other ex-Walsall stars Mark Kinsella and Ron Green in the charity match. Jon Purdie, Simon Dunkley and Shane Tudor put Wolves 3-0 up but Walsall launched a late rally. Kinsella's strike pulled one back before Leroy May's double made it 3-3. Former Wolves and Walsall defender Chris Westwood then netted the winner.